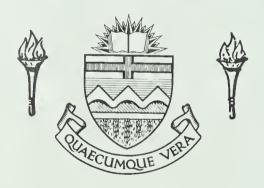
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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

TIME EFFECTS ON THE CREATIVE WRITING OF SIXTH GRADE CHILDREN

Ъу



A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF MASTER OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

EDMONTON, ALBERTA
OCTOBER 1968

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The undersigned certify that they have read and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for acceptance a thesis entitled "Time Effects on the Creative Writing of Sixth Grade Children" submitted by Paul Peel, Jr. in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Education.



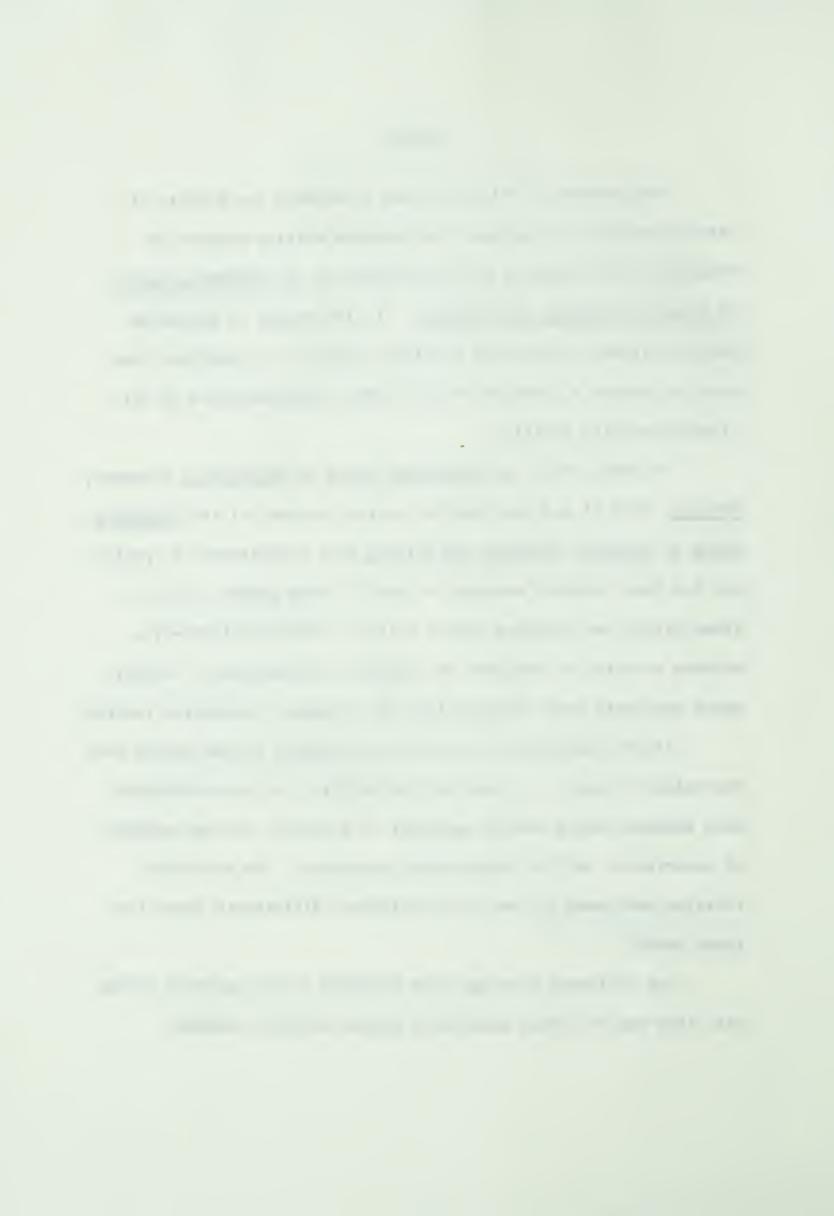
ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of varying amounts of time upon the creative writing product as measured by the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing. It also sought to determine whether fifteen minutes was sufficient time for a grade six student to produce a creative writing sample representative of his creative writing ability.

In June, 1967, the <u>Sequential Tests of Educational Progress</u>, <u>Writing</u>, Form 4A and the creative writing subtest of the <u>Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing</u> were administered to pupils who had been randomly assigned to one of three groups. Each of these groups was assigned either fifteen, thirty of forty-five minutes in which to complete the creative writing test. Intelligence quotients were obtained from the students' cumulative records.

After determining that the three randomly chosen groups were equivalent in age, I.Q., and writing ability, the data collected were analysed using one-way analysis of variance, two-way analysis of covariance, and the Newman-Keuls procedure. The resulting F-ratios were used to test for significant differences among the group means.

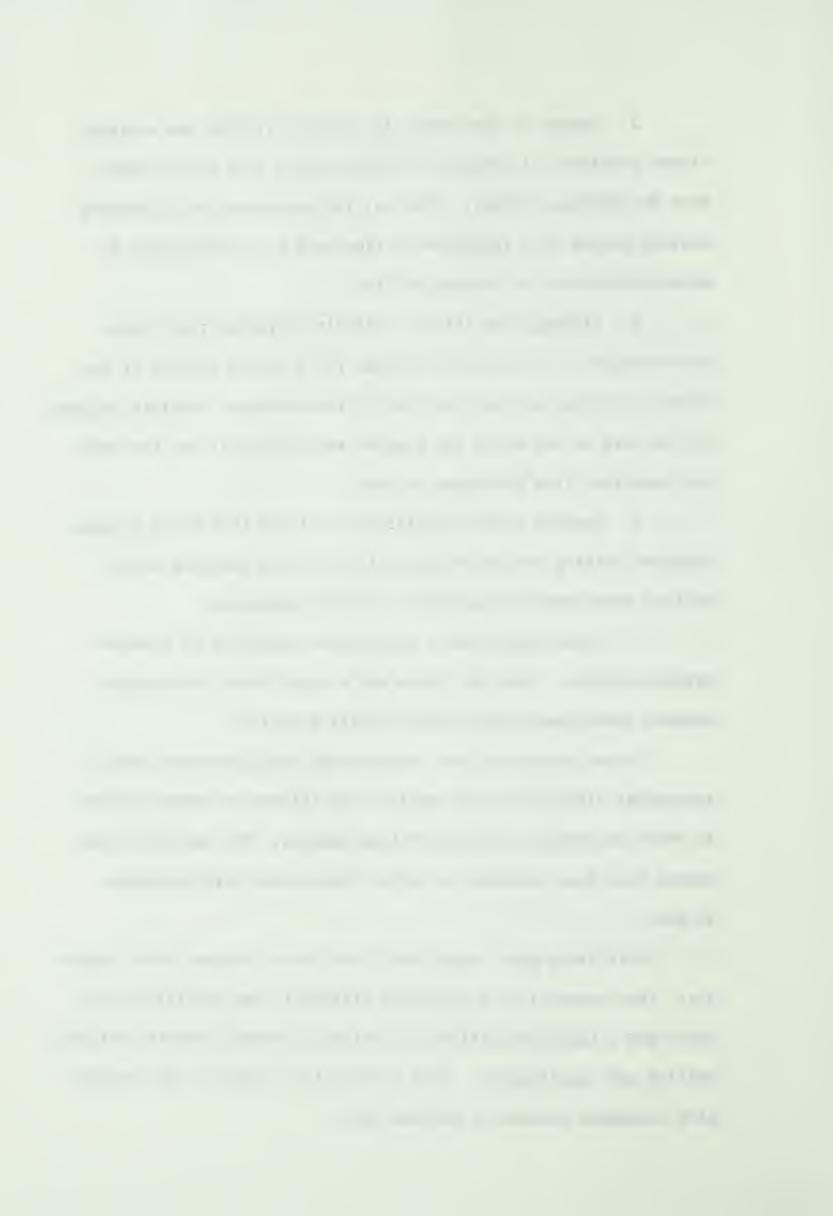
The following findings were revealed in the analysis of the data from the 207 urban elementary school children examined:



- 1. Amount of time spent in creative writing was a significant predictor of creative writing ability even after adjustment for writing ability. That is, the improvements in creative writing scores with increases in time were not attributable to group differences in writing ability.
- 2. Although the initial analysis indicated that fortyfive minutes of writing time allowed for a higher quality of the
 creative writing product than did fifteen minutes, separate analyses
 of the data of the males and females showed that it was the males
 who benefited from increases in time.
- 3. Females scored significantly higher than males on both creative writing and on writing ability in the analyses of all writing measurements regardless of group membership.
- 4. Intelligence was a significant predictor of creative writing ability. That is, there was a significant correlation between intelligence and creative writing ability.

It was concluded that teachers and administrators should reconsider giving grade six pupils only fifteen to twenty minutes in which to produce creative writing samples. The sex difference showed that some children do better than others with increases in time.

This study also casts doubt upon those theories which postulate that creativity is something different from intelligence as there was a highly significant correlation between creative writing ability and intelligence. This correlation, however, did decrease with increased amounts of writing time.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful for the help and co-operation received from many sources in the execution of this investigation:

Dr. R. D. Armstrong, my supervisor, whose assistance and patience as well as his willingness to give of his time and energy played a major role in the preparation and completion of the study;

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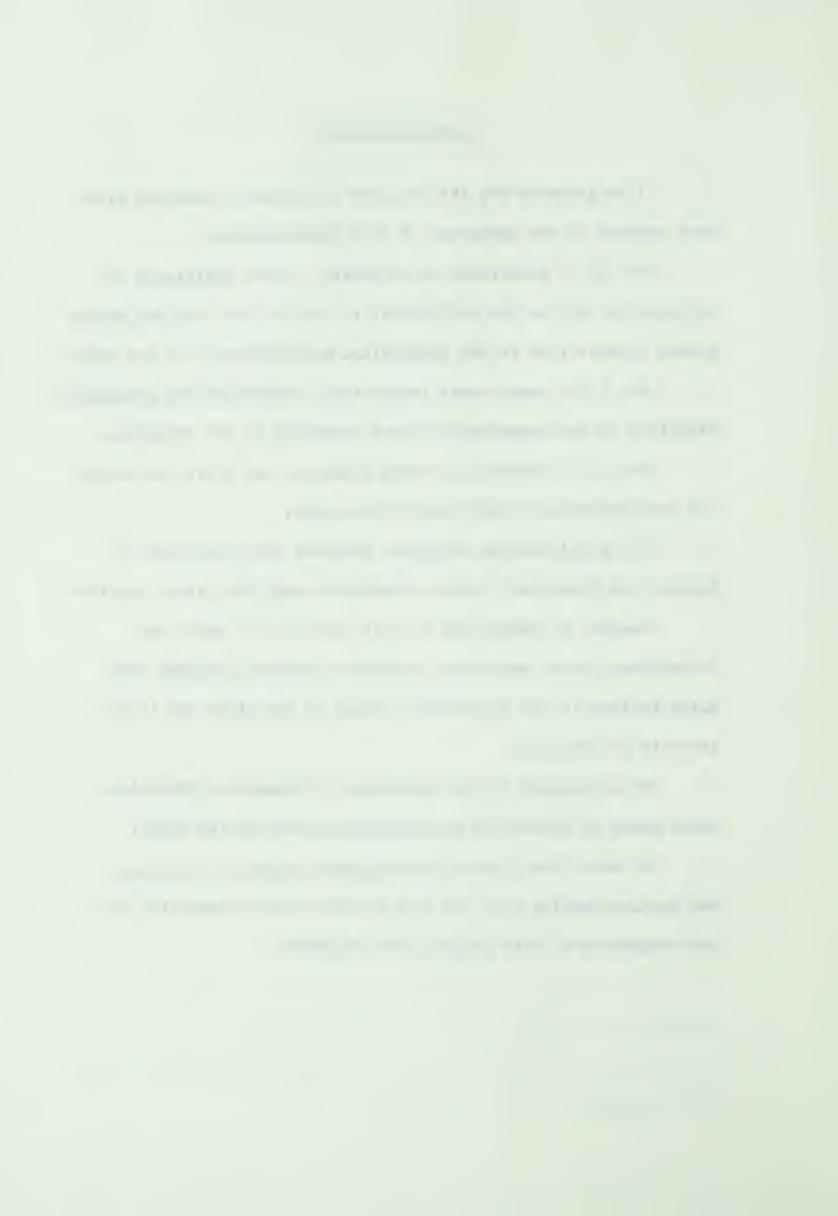
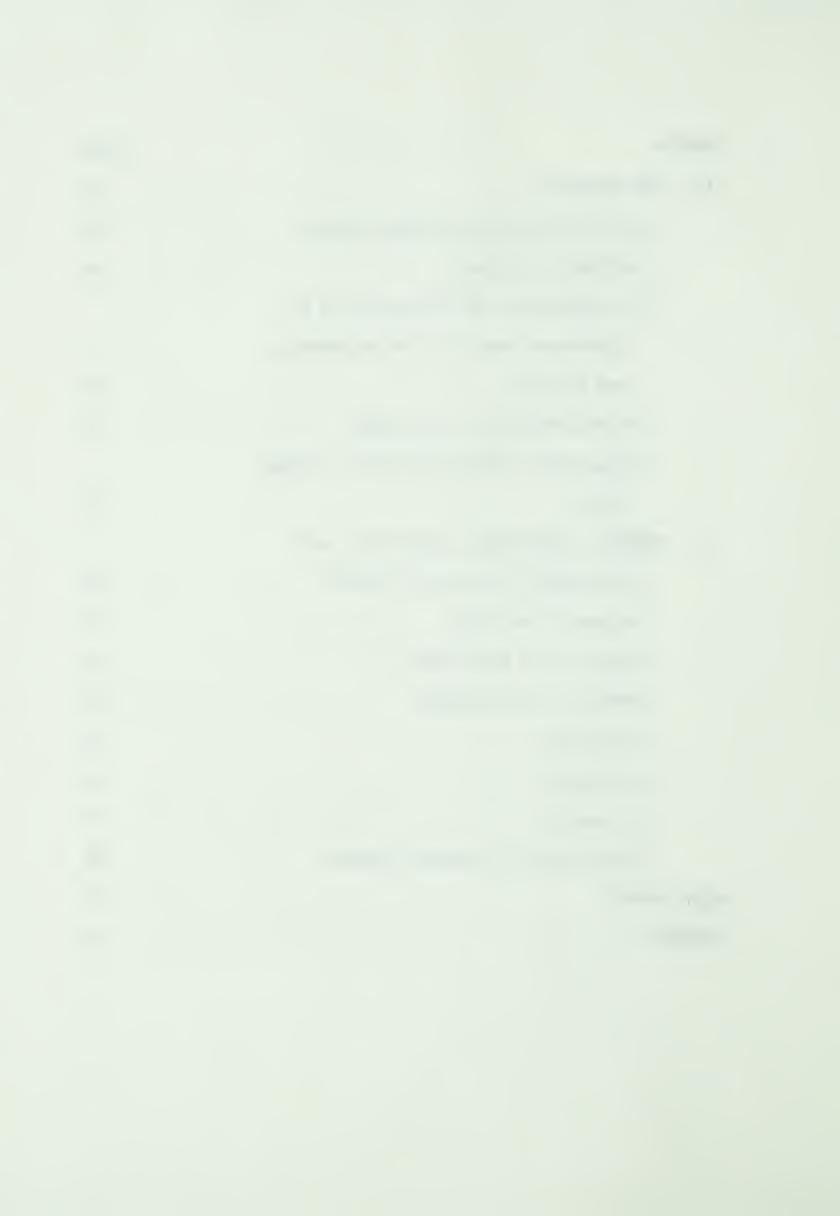


TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPT	ER	PAGE
I.	THE PROBLEM, ITS NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE	1
	Introduction	1
	The Problem	2
	Purpose of the Study	8
	Definition of Terms	9
	Design of the Study	10
	Significance of the Study	11
	Outline of the Study	11
II.	REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH	12
	Summary of Chapter	24
III.	THE EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND STATISTICAL	
	PROCEDURES	26
	The Sample	26
	The Testing Instruments	27
	The Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Tests	29
	The Sequential Test of Educational Progress	
	Writing Form 4A	30
	The Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking	
	and Writing	31
	The Testing Program	32
	Statistical Procedures	33



CHAPTE	ÎR .	PAGE
IV.	THE FINDINGS	35
	Equivalence of the Treatment Groups	35
	Analyses of Variance	40
	Sex Differences on Performance on the	
	Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking	
	and Writing	46
	Two-Way Analysis of Covariance	54
	Newman-Keuls Comparison Between Ordered	
	Means	57
V.	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS AND	
	IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH	60
	Purpose of the Study	60
	Design of the Experiment	60
	Summary of the Findings	61
	Limitations	62
	Conclusions	63
	Discussion	64
	Implications for Further Research	67
BIBLIC	OGRAPHY	70
APPENT)TX	74



LIST OF TABLES

TABLE			PAGE
I.	Number of Students Comprising Each Group		
	According to Sex	•	28
II.	Mean Scores, Standard Deviations and		
	F-Ratios from Analysis of Variance on		
	Test Scores and Age for the Three		
	Treatment Groups	•	36
III.	Groups Means and Standard Deviations of		
	Tests Used	•	38
IV.	Correlations Between Tests Used	•	39
v.	Group Mean Scores and F-Ratio From		
	Analysis of Variance on Creative		
	Writing	•	41
VI.	Predictors of Creative Writing Success	•	43
VII.	Group Membership as a Predictor of		
	Continuous Progress Placement	•	45
VIII.	Means and Standard Deviations of the		
	Test Scores According to Sex	•	47
IX.	Correlations Between Tests Used for Males		
	and Females	•	48
х.	Group Mean Scores and F-Ratios from		
	Analyses of Variance on Creative		
	Writing for Males and Females		49



TABLE	PAGE

XI.	Mean Scores, Standard Deviations and	
	F-Ratios from Analyses of Variance on	
	Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence and on	
	STEP Writing Tests for the Three Treat-	
	ment Groups According to Sex	51
XII.	Group Membership as a Predictor of	
	Continuous Progress Placement According	
	to Sex	53
XIII.	Predictors of Creative Writing Success	
	for Males and Females	55
XIV.	Summary of Analysis of Covariance: MTCTW	
	Creative Writing Scores Adjusted for	
	the Effects of STEP Writing Test Scores	56
XV.	Comparison Between Each of the Group	
	Means for Creative Writing Using the	
	Newman-Keuls Comparison Between	
	Ordered Means	58



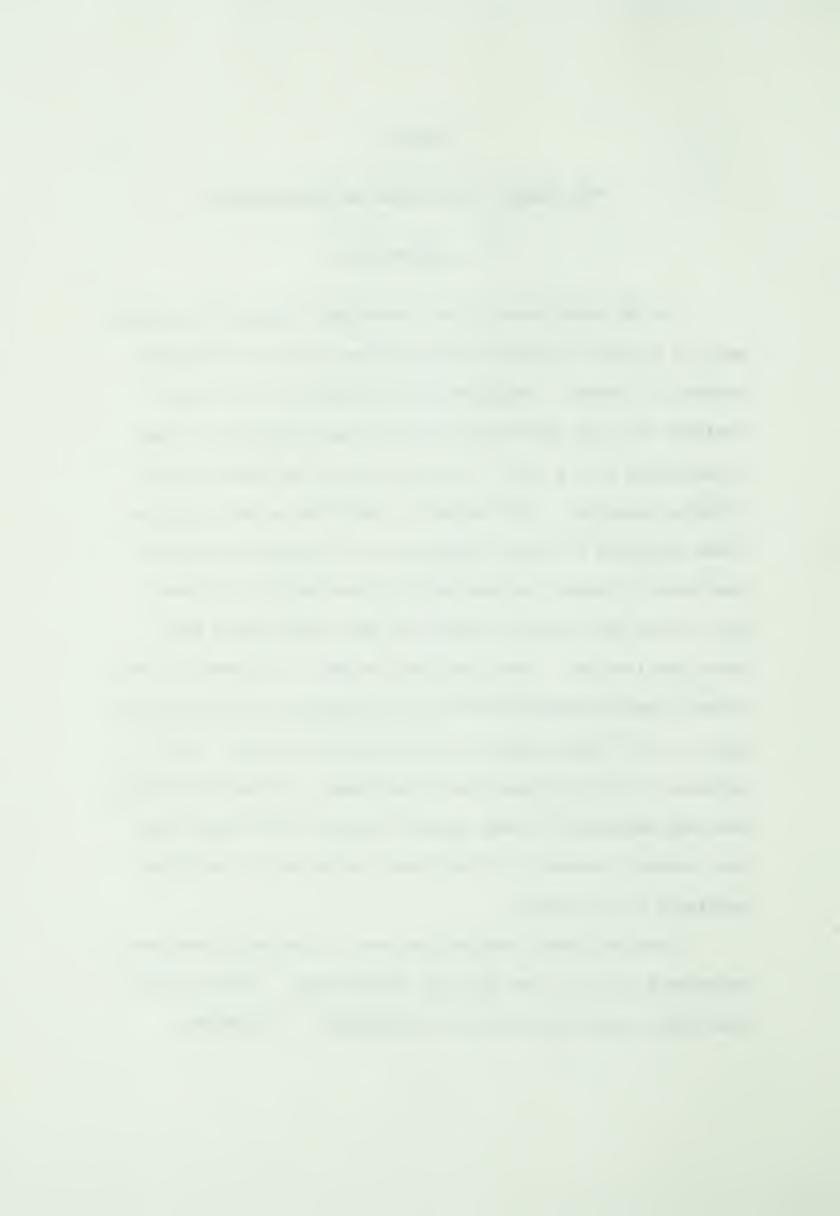
CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM, ITS NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE

I. INTRODUCTION

In the development of our educational system, the measurement of a pupil's potential abilities has attracted increasing amounts of concern. Educators are constantly trying to gain insights into the intellectual functionings of pupils in order to ascertain what a child can assimilate and at what level his thinking operates. Until recently, intelligence tests such as those developed by Binet, Thorndike, and Wechsler have mainly been used to assess the intellectual functioning of children; but, in the past decade, tests other than intelligence tests have come into use. These new tests attempt to account for the areas of mental functioning which intelligence tests do not mea-One of these areas is called creative thinking. portance of the development and measurement of creative thinking has been emphasized by many leading educators who believe that the creative potential, if developed, is the key to the future existence of our society.

Over the years, many definitions of creativity have been advanced but all of them have one common aspect. They all contend that creativity involves a rearrangement of existing



knowledge, ideas or structures so that new knowledge, ideas, or structures result. For example, an original idea is considered to be creative. Creative writing, then, refers to original ideas and expression. Despite considerable research on the subject of creativity in the last ten years, few studies have been concerned with the creativity of elementary school children. Even fewer studies have dealt with creative writing at any level.

Many teachers desire their pupils to write creatively and so provide stimulating experiences or ideas to motivate creative writing. Once a creative writing sample is obtained, it is usually scored according to traditional criteria, mainly, sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and, frequently, neatness and length as well. If creative writing is truly concerned with the quality of the child's ideas and expression, emphasis on evaluation must center upon the child's originality and imagination. Attention should be given to the sensitivity of the writer and manner in which the ideas are presented, not to the traditional criteria such as spelling, neatness, and punctuation. In order to facilitate a positive type of writing evaluation, E. Paul Torrance and Kaoru Yamamoto have developed a test of creative writing ability.

II. THE PROBLEM

Conflicting guidelines are presented in the research



regarding the amount of time a child should be given to produce a creative writing sample. The creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing constructed by Torrance and Yamamoto allows the child fifteen minutes to produce a sample of creative writing. A forty minute period was given by May and Tabachnick (1966) in their study of the creative writing of sixth grade children. Wallen and Stevenson (1960) placed no time limit upon their grade five pupils' efforts to produce an adequate creative writing sample, although most of their subjects finished in forty-five minutes. Supporting evidence for an unrestricted amount of time in which to produce a creative writing sample is presented by Wallach and Kogan (1965). They object to the pressure of time in creativity tests which adversely affects the child's production of ideas. Torrance (in Taylor, 1964) described the findings from one pilot study which studied language behavior in children's imaginative stories. He reported that the more creative children wrote longer stories and used a greater variety of words.

Evidence presented in a study of third grade children's written expression by Woodfin (1966) substantiates Torrance's report. Although Woodfin was not evaluating creative writing ability, her findings do have implications for research concerned with the measurement of the creative writing product. Woodfin reported that an increase in writing time not only



produced an increase in the quantity of writing (as Torrance also reported) but also produced an increase in the quality of the child's written expression.

Most theories about creativity imply that creativity occurs over a period of time but very rarely give much attention to the effects of time. There are implications in the creativity theories that an increase in time devoted to creative activity should produce an increment in creative productivity. For example, one theory has defined four phases of the creative process: preparation, incubation, illumination, and verification (Kneller, 1965). In the preparatory phase, the creative writer must sense the problem and explore ideas for solving the problem. Different ways of expressing the ideas are considered. During the phase of incubation, the unconscious mind of the writer tosses the ideas around so that the solution to the problem is illuminated and all the ideas fall into a meaningful pattern. The verification phase involves a judgment, revision, and expression of the solution in a logical framework.

It is recognized that although it is difficult to separate the phases of the creative process, they are identifiable and each phase requires an expenditure of time. That is, as creativity is developing through these stages, a definite period of time must elapse. Without sufficient amounts of time, creativity might never develop. Theorists who have considered the necessity of



identifying these phases of creativity have avoided a consideration of the amounts of time involved other than citing examples of famous persons and the time involved for them. For example, Kneller (1965) stated that Hart Crane worked for months and years on a poem. Furthermore, the possibility of a differential time involvement for children has never been speculated.

If we are to accept the theories which postulate stages of creativity, it would be logical to expect that decreasing the time available to too great an extent may affect the production of a creative writing sample. The writer may not only need time to produce the sample, but time to prepare his ideas, to allow for incubation, illumination and verification of the solution. Given more time, an individual's creative processes may have a better opportunity to bloom.

There are other reasons why an increase in writing time may produce an increase in creative writing quality. One reason involves the pressure of time which affects us all in different ways. For some, the pressure of time results in increased productivity. Ideas are produced quickly. This need to produce immediately could lead to conformity, though, as the ideas might be presented in a superficial, forced manner. The writer may require more time to produce new ideas and consider the total framework of his presentation before he works on certain words or sentences. Since the generation of ideas takes time, an



increase in the amount of writing time would allow for more thoughts, organization and supporting detail. Often we demand that children get to the point of their idea, thereby denying them the opportunity to pursue their thoughts. The first expression of an idea is not necessarily the best, so with time, expression can be developed precisely and explicitly. An increase in writing time may allow him time to become involved with his ideas and may also allow him time to develop a conducive frame of mind for creative writing.

Wallach and Kogan (1965) also present evidence that creative output increases with time. In their discussion about the creative quality of associative elements, they report that the incidence of stereotyped associates is <u>initially</u> high, but that the incidence of unique associates will occur after a period of time. This indicates that the creativity manifested increases over time. As stated above, Torrance (in Taylor, 1964) has reported that the more creative children did write longer stories. He did not, however, indicate any relationship between writing time and the level of creativity manifested. That is, do creative children need more writing time, or do children who write for longer amounts of time express more creative ideas?

Certainly the relationship between time and creativity must be examined if time limits on tests of creativity are to be established. As creative writing tests are being developed for ele-



mentary school children, the authors of such tests must decide upon the amount of time they will allow pupils to produce an adequate sample of creative writing representative of the child's creative writing ability. The Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing are receiving an increasing amount of attention as effective measuring devices of elementary pupils' creativity, but these tests place time restrictions upon all aspects of measurement including the production of the creative writing sample. If the measurement of creative writing ability as presented by this test is to be accepted as a valid measure, it is necessary to ascertain the effect of a time restriction upon the creative writing product.

The creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of

Creative Thinking and Writing does have the necessary characteristics of an effective evaluative instrument of elementary pupils'
creative writing ability. Reports of intra- and inter-score reliabilities of .72 to .99 indicate that it is a reliable measure.

Despite its short time limit of fifteen minutes, it does have
apparent validity in that it places the emphasis of evaluation upon
ideas and expression, not mechanics. This test is a standardized
test and presents norms for grade four, five, and six pupils.

Torrance claims that the test minimizes the effect of the pupils'
experiential background (in Torrance and Gupta, 1964). He reported that very few pupils recalled experiences from their own
background. Since this test of creative writing ability has been



given what seems to be an arbitrary time limit of fifteen or twenty minutes for completion, it would be a suitable instrument to be used to determine the effects of varying amounts of time upon the creative writing product.

III. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

It is the purpose of this study to examine the effects of varying amounts of time upon the creative writing product as measured by the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing. The study also seeks to determine whether fifteen minutes is sufficient time for a grade six student to produce a creative writing sample representative of his creative writing ability.

The measurement of creative writing ability will be studied in relation to the factors of time, writing ability, intelligence, sex, and achievement. Following are questions which this study seeks to answer:

- Does an increase in writing time produce an increase in creative writing score and, if so, does fifteen minutes, thirty minutes, or forty-five minutes writing time produce the highest creative writing score?
- 2. Is intelligence a significant predictor of creative writing ability?
- 3. Is writing ability a significant predictor of creative writing ability?
- 4. Is achievement level a significant predictor of creative writing ability?
- 5. Is there a significant difference between the creative writing ability of males and females?



IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of this study, several terms are operationally defined as follows:

Creative writing ability refers to the ability to react to verbal stimuli in a written form with organization, sensitivity, originality, imagination, psychological insight, and richness in ideas as measured by the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing.

MTCTW refers to the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing.

Intelligence refers to the mental processes which are descriptive of intelligent behavior as measured by the Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Tests (Canadian Edition). Verbal intelligence refers to the measurement by the verbal section of this test, and nonverbal intelligence refers to the measurement by the nonverbal section.

Writing ability refers to the ability to identify strengths, errors, and weaknesses in a passage of writing and to make revisions with regard to organization, convention, critical thinking, effectiveness, and appropriateness as measured by the <u>Sequential</u>

Tests of Educational Progress, Writing, Form 4A.



STEP refers to the <u>Sequential Tests of Educational Progress</u>, Writing, Form A.

Achievement is defined in terms of the continuous progress plan in the Edmonton Public School system which places elementary children into one of four classifications—accelerated, high average, low average, or deccelerated.

V. DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The 207 children involved in this study consisted of the total grade six enrollment less absentees of two Edmonton Public elementary schools. In the latter part of June, 1967 each child was administered the Sequential Tests of Educational Progress, Writing, Form 4A. In order to administer the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing, each child was randomly assigned to one of three time-defined groups. An attempt was made to form the groups with children of equivalent achievement level. Group A received the creative writing test in fifteen minutes, Group B in thirty minutes, and Group C in forty-five minutes. Both the STEP and the MTCTW writing tests were administered to groups of pupils with the classroom teachers administering the STEP Writing test and the writer administering the MTCTW creative writing test.

Statistical analyses using a linear regression model and



computer programs supplied by the Division of Educational Research Services, University of Alberta, were used to determine the effect of time upon the creative writing product.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The increasing emphasis on creative writing at the elementary level creates a need for the development of pertinent guidelines for the teachers of the language arts. Close attention should be given to the amount of time that children are given in which to produce a creative writing sample for evaluation purposes. In particular, it should be determined whether the fifteen minutes allowed by the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing is optimum for the child to produce a creative writing sample representative of his ability.

VII. OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

The present chapter is an introduction to and preview of the study. A review of pertinent literature is presented in Chapter II. Chapter III consists of a detailed description of the design of the study and the statistical procedures used in analysing the data. Chapter IV includes the results of the statistical analyses and Chapter V summarizes the study and presents the conclusions, limitations, and implications for further research.



CHAPTER II

A REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH

In an address to the American Psychological Association,
J. P. Guilford (1950) reported that only 186 out of 121,000
titles in the Psychological Abstracts were indexed as bearing
definitely on the subject of creativity. Since that time, a
wealth of material on creativity has emerged from researchers
around the world. Despite this increase, few creativity studies
have been concerned with elementary school children. Those
studies which were concerned with the measurement of creative
writing ability at the elementary level seldom used the same
bases or model for their measurement. Each researcher designed
his own device for measuring creative writing ability. The
increasing attention that creative writing activities are receiving demands the establishment of measurement guidelines for
the teacher and the researcher.

Many articles have been written which extol the benefits of teaching creative writing at the elementary level: Brodsky (1963), Carey (1962), Dragoo (1962), Jones (1963), Krich (1963), Martin (1962), Sister Antony Mary (1965), Sister M. Joan (1965), Teidt (1964, 1965), and White (1963). These articles are not based upon research procedures. Instead, they relate to the writer's experience with children's creative writing and encourage



other teachers to motivate students to write creatively. Although Shane and Mulry (1963), Wyatt (1962), and Darnell (1962) decried the lack of creative writing research which are based on experimental procedures, meaningful studies <u>are</u> available as a basis for future research.

May and Tabachnick (1966) used three grade six groups to examine the effects of organized and unorganized stimuli upon the creative writing product. Their first group was presented with organized stimuli (i.e., a representational drawing), their second group with unorganized stimuli (i.e., a design or nonrepresentational drawing), and their third group was given both stimuli and allowed to choose which one they would use as a stimulus for writing a story. Each group was given forty minutes in which they were to write a story that the picture made them think about. The group that had to make a choice was given an extra five minutes to compensate for the time taken to choose between the two pictures. All the stories were typed with spelling and gross grammatical errors corrected before judges rated the compositions. The stories were rated as either creative or noncreative by each of the twelve judges so that each paper received a score out of twelve. In conclusion, after all the results were tabulated, no conclusive inferences were made about the relationships between the organized and the unorganized stimuli. A sex difference was noted though, and important implications:



This study provides evidence of the importance of recognizing differences in motivational patterns that may exist in the classroom, especially differences between the patterns of boys and girls.... A non-objective picture provides more opportunity for choice of ideas for writing than a representational drawing does, and a non-objective picture may intrigue some of the boys who are not interested in the more explicit pictures. (p. 93)

Wallen and Stevenson (1960) administered a series of creative writing exercises to sixty-three fifth graders along with the California Tests of Mental Maturity; the California Achievement Tests for reading, arithmetic, and language; and the Science Research Associates Junior Inventory -- a measure of social adjustment. Other ratings of social adjustment were also obtained from the teacher and from the Ohio Social Acceptance Scale. of the creative writing products from each child were marked without regard for spelling, neatness, vocabulary, and length. A "creativity" score was defined as a combination of the three creative writing scores. The data collected presented a consistent, coherent picture according to the authors of the study. There was a substantial relationship reported between the "creativity" score and each of the ability measures (the correlations ranged from .57 to .72), and a smaller, but significant, relationship between the "creativity" score and social adjustment indicating a tendency for the more creative to be better adjusted socially. Wallen and Stevenson (1960, p. 275-276) conclude:

As to the relationships between creativity and other dimensions, we may say that they support the notion that



creativity in writing does not exist in a vacuum but is rather highly related to general intellectual and academic skills. It is rather surprising to find the measure of general ability correlating to a lesser degree with creativity score than the measures of specific academic skills, though the difference is not statistically significant. It may be that creativity in writing is more heavily dependent on such specific skills than many have thought. An alternative explanation is that our [Wallen's and Stevenson's] judges were in fact rating "scholastic conformity" rather than creativity though we do not think this to be the case.

Yamamoto (1963) did a similar study in 1960, using its results to cast doubt upon the findings of Wallen and Stevenson (1960). In his study, Yamamoto examined the relationships between intelligence, achievement, creative thinking, and creative writing in a small, highly intelligent population of children in grades three to six at the University of Minnesota Elementary School. The findings reported are suspect in the light of the small number of pupils in the sample (N = 79, and the average number of pupils at each grade was only twenty), and the high average I.Q. of the sample (Stanford-Binet $\overline{X} = 127.14$).

Although Yamamoto's findings did reveal a significant correlation between I.Q. and creative writing scores, they also showed that creative thinking scores and creative writing scores did not correlate highly at all. (I.Q. - creative writing: r = .28, significant at the .05 level of significance. In Wallen and Stevenson, r = .57 between I.Q. and creative writing.) It may be considered surprising that arithmetic achievement correlated higher with creative writing than did either I.Q. or



creative thinking. Yamamoto's sample was restricted to a highly intelligent group of pupils, without consideration of both the average and the low intelligence groups, therefore Yamamoto's criticism of Wallen and Stevenson appears to be invalidated due to this weakness. It is unfortunate that Yamamoto, in his effort to strengthen the study done by Wallen and Stevenson, failed to justify the explanations he presents as to why the findings of the two studies differ. It appears that most of the differences between the two sample groups would explain the discrepancies which arose. Whereas Wallen and Stevenson used sixty-three grade five students with an average I.Q. of 103.58, Yamamoto's sample of seventy-nine pupils is spread over four grades. Although these researchers used different instruments to measure intelligence, a comparison can be made. Such a comparison reveals that Yamamoto's group has a much higher average intelligence than does the group that Wallen and Stevenson used--23.56 points higher.

Nevertheless, the conclusions of both studies are in agreement: Wallen and Stevenson (1960, p. 275) state that "creativity in writing does not appear to exist in a vacuum but is highly related to general intellectual and academic skills." Yamamoto similarily concludes that "quite possibly, one must accumulate considerable knowledge and understanding before he can try a creative jump, and his imaginative endeavors must be backed up by a certain level of intellectual and academic skills."

(Yamamoto, 1963, p. 308)

A study of the "free-writing" or creative writing compositions of 1739 grade four, five and six students in Alberta was undertaken by McKie (1963) in order to determine patterns of language development with respect to sex and environment (rural-urban). Many of the qualities which she considered in the children's writing are those qualities evaluated in creative writing studies mentioned above. The findings in this study indicated a continuous development in writing ability from grade four to six. grades four and five the performance of the girls was significantly superior to that of the boys, but in grade six, this difference was not significant. As a suggestion for further research, McKie recommends a study which compares the results of a standardized language test to those of a free-writing situation. Since there are few studies which go further than analysing the mechanics of capitalization, punctuation, grammar usage, spelling, and sentence structure, McKie contends it is highly desirable that language development be assessed in terms other than those based on standardized tests.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of instruction and the level of pupil attainment, teachers need some standard against which they can compare their students' work. In the past, a teacher who engaged in creative writing instruction found himself without these standards of comparison. Guides to help the teacher



evaluate the creative writing product were scarce. Only the general rule to evaluate ideas and not the mere mechanics of expression could be followed. The need to develop an adequate instrument to measure creative writing ability was created out of this difficulty to measure ideas, not mechanics.

A study by Edmund (1956) is one of the first main studies which is concerned with the creative writing of young children. His study was designed to answer the question regarding the relationship which may exist between the students' prior experiences and the quality of their creative writing. Although he realized the problem of measuring creative writing ability—"Defining creative writing is itself a problem. By its very nature, it lends itself to measurement difficulties." (p. 82)—Edmund did not give the measuring device due consideration. No evidence is presented which attests to the reliability of the creative writing evaluation. Later studies by Wallen and Stevenson, and May and Tabachnik (1960 and 1966 respectively) did present interscorer reliabilities of .81—.86 and .80 respectively. These researchers constructed their own measures of creative writing ability.

Since 1964, the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing, as developed by Torrance (1965) and Yamamoto (1964b), has been used in an increasing number of studies. Several reports as to the reliability of this study were available. With the exception of a study by Wodtke (1964),



only inter and intrascorer reliabilities are reported. Wodtke examined a test-retest reliability for the Minnesota tests. Although he reported a test-retest reliability of only .09, he states that this reliability, computed for a small subsample of thirty-one pupils, is probably not representative of the true reliability of the creative writing measure. A high interscorer reliability of .91 - .99 does attest to the specificity of the criteria.

Goldman and Clarke (1967) investigated both the inter and intrascorer reliability of the creative writing part of the Minnesota tests. For the intrascorer reliability, a two week interval separated the first and second markings. With the exception of one low intrascorer reliability of .48, all intra and interscorer reliabilities ranged from .72 - .95. They concluded that their study did indicate high levels of intra and interscorer reliability for judgments of creative writing when clear criteria are laid down.

Thinking and Writing, Torrance and Yamamoto, both report interscorer reliabilities of .76 - .88 for these tests. The high intra and interscorer reliabilities generally reported (the Goldman and Clarke study was conducted in England) attest to the clarity of the manual devised by Yamamoto (1964b) as a guide for the evaluation of creative writing products. As all



the reliabilities reported here resulted from creative writing testing done at the elementary level, Yamamoto's manual for scoring creative writing may be considered a valuable guide for elementary teachers and researchers alike. Research is needed to determine the test-retest reliability of the creative writing measurement.

Several studies have compared creative writing scores with those attained on standardized language achievement tests. Significant correlations were found in all cases. In a comparison between the language subscore of the California Achievement Test and a creative writing score, Wallen and Stevenson (1960) reported a .72 correlation significant at the .01 level. Yamamoto (1963) reported a .67 correlation significant at the .001 level between the language subscore of the Lowa Every-Pupil Tests of Basic Skills and the creative writing score on the Minnesota test. In a similar comparison, Torrance reported a .46 correlation significant at the .05 level. In all these studies, the correlations between language ability and creative writing ability are much higher than the correlations between intelligence and creative writing levels.

In her review of the literature, McKie (1963, p. 23) states that "studies which compare the language performance of boys and girls generally indicate that girls have attained the higher scores." A study of the written expression of third grade pupils by Woodfin (1966) found no significant sex differences.



Marksberry (1963) stated that the only difference between the writing of girls and boys in the fifth and sixth grades is that the girls have a tendency to write more in a given length of time. In studies of creative writing ability, both Rees (1965) with grade five students, and May and Tabachnick (1966) with grade six students, found that girls excelled boys with a significance at the .05 level. McKie reported sex differences in creative writing ability in grades four and five which significantly favored the girls at the .01 level. However, she did not find any significant difference between the creative writing ability of girls and boys in the sixth grade. No studies show male superiority in either language performance or creative writing ability in the elementary grades.

The studies discussed consider variable effects of intelligence, language ability as measured by standardized achievement tests, and sex upon creative writing ability. Woodfin (1966), using groups of grade three students matched for age, intelligence, socio-economic status and language ability, found that neither the quantity nor the quality of girls' written expression was significantly greater than that of boys. In agreement with Marksberry (1963), she did state that the girls do write at a faster rate. Attention is drawn to her other conclusions: 1) Increases in writing time produces improvement in both quality and quantity of written expression, 2) Third graders can write for longer than



is expected.

The importance of allowing children sufficient amounts of time in which to produce a written composition is emphasized by Braddock (1963) who comments on those studies that restrict the writing period to twenty or thirty minutes:

Although such a brief time may be sufficient for a third grader writing a short narrative on a familiar topic, it seems ridiculously brief for a high school or college student to write something thoughtful. (p. 9)

But Woodfin has suggested that even third graders are not normally given sufficient time to produce their best work. At the grade five level, Wallen and Stevenson (1960) found that although most students finished their creative writing in forty-five minutes, some needed as long as two hours. In the studies of creative writing ability, only Servey (1959) mentioned that he considered the amount of time which he gave his subjects to write. He found that in twenty minutes all but a few children could complete their writing samples. In the manual for the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing, Yamamoto (1964b) directs the test administrators to allow the children fifteen minutes. Elsewhere Torrance (1965) suggests twenty minutes for the same test: Wodtke (1964) and Goldman and Clarke (1967) both use the twenty minutes for the Minnesota tests. In other tests of creative writing ability, May and Tabachnick (1966) and Edmund (1956) allowed forty to forty-five minutes. In the study of



Darnell (1962), forty-five minutes were allowed for the first creative writing session and thirty minutes in each session thereafter. In the study by Wallen and Stevenson (1960) mentioned above, no time limit was set upon the creative writing session. Such freedom is strongly supported by Wallach and Kogan (1965) who criticize any tests of creativity which impose time restrictions.

With the exception of the study by Woodfin (1966), no research has investigated the influence of varying amounts of time upon children's written expression; despite the growing concern for the development of reliable and accurate measures of children's creative writing ability, no studies have been concerned with the amount of time that children should be allowed to write in order to produce an optimum sample of creative writing. There is some evidence that a fifteen minute time limit as suggested by Yamamoto (1964b) in his manual for the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing is not a sufficient amount of time for a child to produce an adequate writing sample. As is strongly suggested by Braddock (1963, p. 9):

It would be highly desirable to discover, through research, the optimum amounts of time needed by students at various levels of maturity to write thoughtful papers. Until such research has been conducted, investigators should consider permitting primary grade children to take as much as 20 to 30 minutes, and intermediate graders as much as 35 to 50 minutes....



Summary of chapter. This chapter has reviewed several meaningful creative writing studies which have investigated the creative writing ability of elementary pupils. Most of the researchers devised their own creative writing test instruments but gave little explanation of the instrument and how they chose their time limits for writing. Other studies chose to use the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative

Thinking and Writing which is well documented and widely used.

The high inter and intrascorer reliabilities reported by the researchers who used this test indicate the explicitness of its criteria. All studies of creative writing ability reported high correlations between intellectual abilities and creative writing ability. Correlations between language ability and creative writing ability were higher than those reported between intelligence and creative writing ability.

Although some studies which compared the creative writing scores of males and females reported significant differences favoring females, there was an indication that no sex difference existed at the grade six level. No studies revealed male superiority in creative writing ability.

With the exception of one study, the importance of time restrictions on the production of a creative writing sample appeared to be overlooked. The one study which did consider time effects was not evaluating creative writing ability. However,



its findings may be similar in the creative writing situation:
quantity and quality of writing both increased with greater amounts
of writing time. Most studies reviewed restricted the writing
period to fifteen or twenty minutes. These time restrictions were
strongly criticized and a need for detailed consideration of time
effects is stated.



CHAPTER III

THE EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND STATISTICAL PROCEDURES

This chapter presents descriptions of the sample, the testing instruments, the testing procedure, and the statistical procedures used to analyse the data.

I. THE SAMPLE

In June, 1967, eight classes of grade six pupils, consisting of all grade six pupils of two large elementary Edmonton Public schools, participated in this study. The total sample consisted of two hundred and seven pupils from two schools each consisting of over five hundred elementary pupils from average socio-economic areas of Edmonton. It would seem reasonable to assume that any conclusions reached regarding these students would apply, in general, to grade six students in Alberta from similar large urban elementary schools. Those pupils absent from any of the testing were not included in the total sample and were excluded from the analyses.

The pupils were to be divided into three groups of comparable intelligence, achievement, and writing ability. Since all the students from the participating schools had been placed into one of four continuous progress categories, it was decided to choose randomly the pupils from each category and place them into



one of three groups. As the continuous progress categories (accelerated, high average, low average, and deccelerated) are formed on the basis of student achievement, the three groups formed for this study were assumed to be comparable with respect to intelligence, achievement, and writing ability, as well as on other factors which could influence the final conclusions. To determine the correctness of this assumption, detailed analyses were undertaken.

An attempt was also made to place an equal number of males and females into each group, but due to the unequal numbers of males and females in the continuous placement categories, this attempt was somewhat unsuccessful. The size of each group is presented in Table I.

II. THE TESTING INSTRUMENTS

Three standardized tests were used to measure pupil abilities. The Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Tests, administered by the classroom teachers as part of the school system's policy, were used to estimate the pupils' abstract intelligence; the Sequential Tests of Educational Progress (STEP) writing test was used to estimate the pupils' writing ability; and the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing (MTCTW) was used to estimate the pupils' creative writing ability.



NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMPRISING EACH GROUP
ACCORDING TO SEX

Group	S	Sex	Total	
	Male	Female		
A	34	33	67	
В	41	28	69	
С	35	36	71	
TOTAL	110	97	207	



The Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Tests (Level 3)

In the <u>Fifth Mental Measurements Yearbook</u>, Freeman (in Buros, 1959, p. 350) has described the Lorge-Thorndike test as being among the best group tests of intelligence available.

Milholland (Buros, 1959, p. 352) comments that the uses recommended for these tests are reasonable and defensible. No objection to the use of these intelligence tests are presented.

Lorge and Thorndike (1962, p. 2) have based their tests on the premise that "most abstract ideas with which the school child deals... are expressed in verbal symbols, so much so that verbal symbols are appropriate media for the testing of abstract intelligence." Certain mental processes which are descriptive of intelligent behavior are sampled by the Lorge-Thorndike tests. These processes include interpretation and use of symbols, dealing with relationships among concepts and symbols, flexibility in the organization of concepts and symbols, and utilizing one's experience in new patterns.

High reliability scores for these intelligence tests are presented by Lorge and Thorndike (1962). The manual lists an alternate form reliability of .81 on the non-verbal and .90 on the verbal sections, an odd-even reliability of .94 on both sections, a test-retest reliability of .79 on the non-verbal and .60 on the verbal section, and also a correlation between the verbal and non-verbal section of .66. (In this study, the



correlation between the verbal and non-verbal sections was .77.)

The Sequential Tests of Educational Progress - Writing Form 4A

STEP is the abbreviated name for the Sequential Tests of

Educational Progress, a series of tests constructed to indicate

student achievement in many different areas. The STEP Writing

Test (Level 4, Form 4A) was administered to determine the writing

ability of the students in this study within the limits of the

test. As Zahner has stated in The Fifth Mental Measurements

Yearbook,

Within the limits set any test in composition by the requirement of objective testing, this is a strong test, well conceived and executed. Its use of student writing as a base is realistic. Its coverage of the details of structure, usage, rhetoric, and logic is wide and nicely attuned to the grade levels used. (Buros, 1959, p. 262-263)

This test is more a test of proofreading and editing than of writing because nowhere is the student asked to do any writing, but it is an objective test of the skills of written composition. Although the STEP Writing Test may not achieve all of its comprehensive objectives, it does provide an adequate indication of the students' writing ability; and for the purposes of this study was useful in evaluating the equivalence of the three groups studied. Among other skills tested by the STEP Writing Test, the most important in relationship to this study are its measurement of the ability to organize ideas, to think critically with regards to perception of cause and effect relationships, to



choose appropriate tone and level and to effectively include exactness, simplicity and variety. It is also important to note that the STEP Writing Test was designed as a power test, not as a speed test, so that fast students would not have an advantage.

Reliabilities for the <u>STEP Writing Test</u> reported in the technical report are the results of internal analysis based on a single administration of the test. The reliability reported for Form 4A was .89 with a standard error of measurement of 3.53.

The Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing

For the purposes of this study, only the writing subtest of the MTCTW was used. Several researchers have reported high reliability scores for this writing subtest. Yamamoto (1964b) reported an interscorer reliability of .76 to .88, Wodtke (1964) reported an interscorer reliability of .91 to .99, and Torrance (1962) reported an interscorer reliability of .76 to .80. All of these allowed their subjects either fifteen minutes or twenty minutes in which to complete the test. Yamamoto (1964b) reported means for fifty males in grade six and sixty-five females in grade six as 13.54 and 17.37 respectively. The grand mean reported for the one hundred and fifteen students was 15.70 with a standard deviation of 5.11.

In the manual for this creative writing test, Yamamoto



(1964b) attempts to guide the evaluator of creative writing to judge in terms of ideas, concepts, and qualities of originality, instead of literary values, grammatical correctness, and refinement. The aim is to judge writings in terms of their creative achievement. To achieve this end, Yamamoto's evaluation of creative writing is based upon six major categories: organization, sensitivity, originality, imagination, psychological insight, and richness. Each of these categories is subdivided into five criteria and these criteria are specifically used to evaluate the creative writing. Yamamoto (1964b) has stated that the objective of the manual was to minimize subjectivity and maximize objectivity in the evaluation. In view of high reliability coefficients reported (.76 to .99) by researchers in Britain and America, it can be stated that this objective has been attained.

III. THE TESTING PROGRAM

In the fall of 1966, the Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Tests had been administered to all subjects in this study. The results of these tests, including a verbal score, a non-verbal score, and a composite score, were obtained from each student's cumulative records.

In June 1967, the <u>STEP Writing Tests</u> and the writing subtest of the <u>MTCTW</u> were administered to all the grade six pupils present in the two participating schools. The STEP Writing Tests



were given in the students' home classroom with the classroom teachers administering. The creative writing subtest of the MTCTW was administered in each school's library by the researcher.

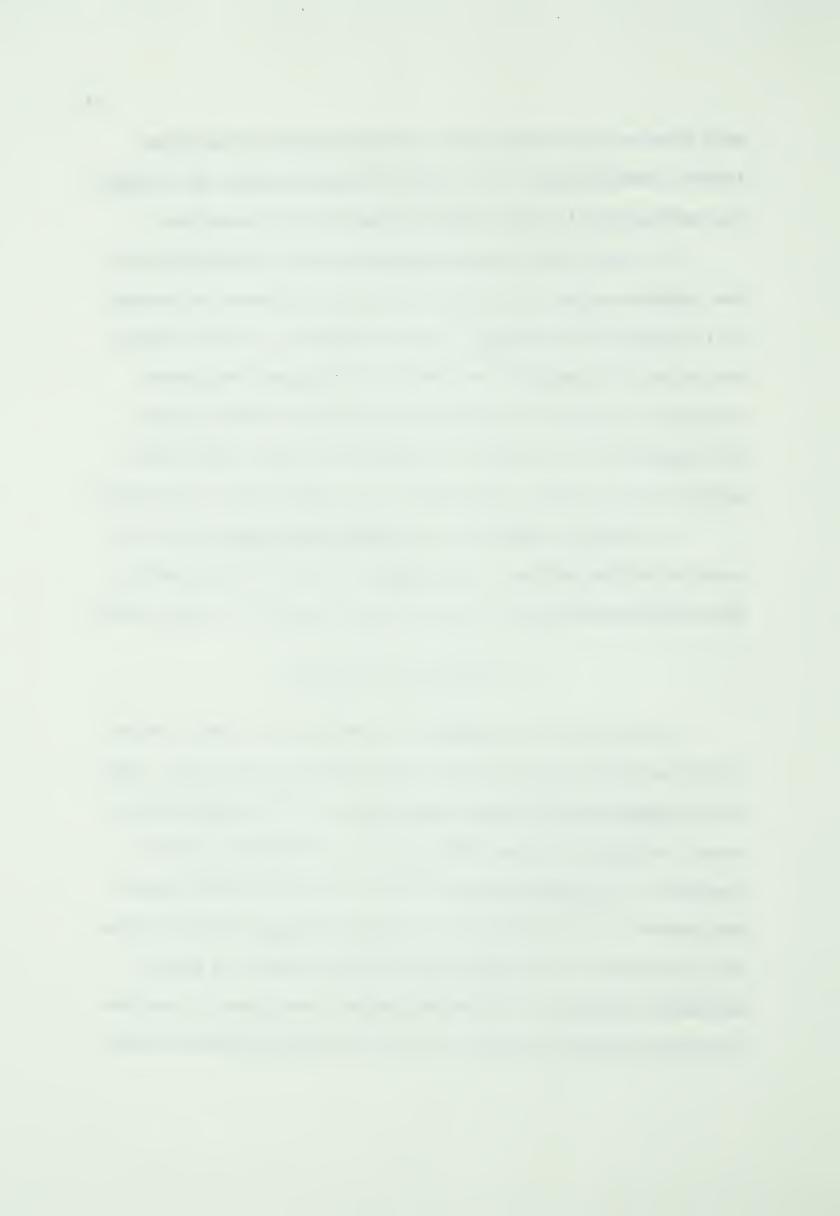
All tests given were administered exactly according to the test manuals except in the case of the time allotment recommended in the manual for the MTCTW. In this instance, the time allowed the subjects to complete the creative writing task was varied according to group so that Group A was allowed fifteen minutes (as suggested by the manual) to complete the test, Group B was allowed thirty minutes, and Group C was allowed forty-five minutes.

The testing schedule for the <u>STEP Writing Test</u> and for the creative writing subtest of the <u>MTCTW</u> are found in the Appendix.

The participating schools and cooperating teachers are also listed.

IV. STATISTICAL PROCEDURES

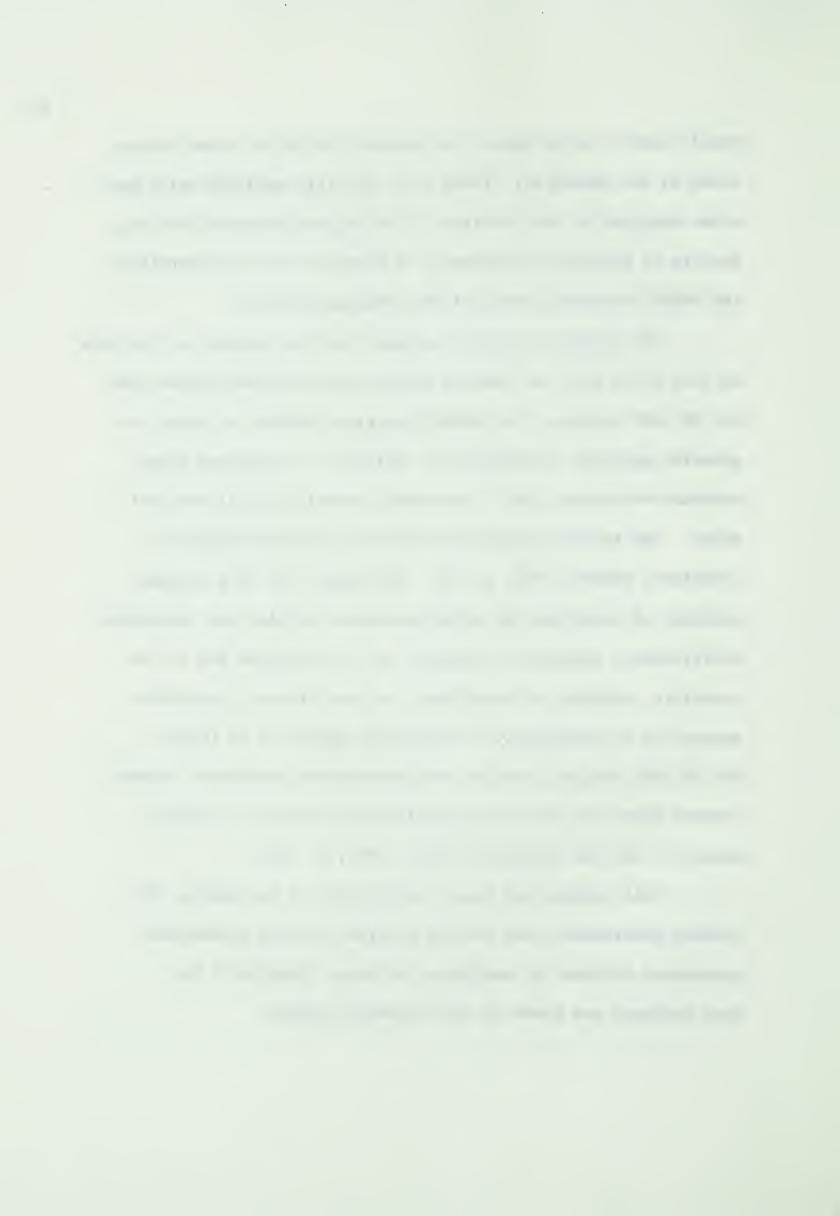
Each student was assigned an identification number and the following data for each student was punched onto IBM cards: the total Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Test score, the STEP Writing score, the MTCTW creative writing score, the treatment group assigned, the Lorge-Thorndike verbal score and non-verbal score, the student's chronological age, the STEP Writing converted score, the sub-scores of the MTCTW creative writing test, the school attended, the student's classroom teacher, the student's sex, the continuous placement category, and the creative writing topic the



pupil chose to write upon. (A complete listing of these data is found in the Appendix.) These data were then analysed using programs supplied by the Division of Educational Research Services, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta and the university's IBM 360/67 computer processed the programs employed.

The computer programs supplied for the analyses of the data in this study were the REG-200 program, the AC-2000 program, and the AV-1002 program. The REG-200 program provides a linear regression approach to analysis of variance. It produces means, standard deviations, and a correlation matrix for all the variables. The AC-2000 program provides for two-way analysis of covariance (Winer, 1962, p. 60). The output for this program consists of covariate and criterion means, within cell regression coefficients, analysis of variance on the criterion and on the covariate, analysis of covariance, and an F-ratio by which the assumption of homogeneity of regression means can be tested. The AV-1002 program provides the Newman-Keuls comparison between ordered means and tests for significant differences on group means for all the variables (Winer, 1962, p. 102).

This chapter has been a description of the sample, the testing instruments, the testing program, and the statistical procedures followed in analysing the data. Results of the data analyses are found in the following chapter.



CHAPTER IV

THE FINDINGS

This chapter presents the results of the major statistical analyses completed. Each hypothesis tested was examined, and the results of each computer program will be interpreted.

I. EQUIVALENCE OF THE TREATMENT GROUPS

The initial analysis considered the supposed equality of the three creative writing groups tested. These groups have been defined as being chosen randomly from students placed in each of the four continuous progress categories. Since the continuous placement categories in the Edmonton Public school system are decided on the basis of student intelligence and achievement, the three groups chosen for this study were assumed to be comprised of students with comparable ability. If these three creative writing groups were comparable, no significant differences among means should arise on comparisons of chronological age, Lorge—

Thorndike Intelligence Test scores (total, verbal, and non-verbal), and STEP Writing scores.

One-way analyses of variance were carried out to determine if, in fact, there were any significant differences among group means on the above comparisons. The results of these analyses are presented in Table II.



TABLE II

MEAN SCORES, STANDARD DEVIATIONS, AND F-RATIOS FROM
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE ON TEST SCORES AND AGE
FOR THE THREE TREATMENT GROUPS

	Group A	Group B	Group C	F
Writing time (minutes)	15	30	45	
Number of students	67	69	71	
Mean age (in months)	144.39	143.97	144.14	.06
Mean I.Q.	110.37	112.71	112.44	1.00
Mean verbal intelligence	108.81	112.26	111,00	.25
Mean non-verbal intelligence	108.21	111.78	109.93	.71
Mean writing (STEP converted)	266.25	269.84	269,32	1.69

 $F_{.05} \ge 3.04$



As shown in Table II, the critical F-ratio for a .05-level test and the associated degrees of freedom in this case is 3.04. A significant difference between the mean scores exists if an F-ratio exceeds 3.04. Using the .05 test ensures that a mean score difference would not be considered significant unless it could occur as a result of sampling error in less than five out of one hundred such sample mean score comparisons. Similarly, use of the .01 test ensures that a mean score difference would not be considered significant unless it could occur as a result of sampling error in less than one out of one hundred such sample mean score comparisons.

Inspection of Table II reveals as a result of .05-level tests, no significant differences between group means with respect to age, intelligence, verbal intelligence, non-verbal intelligence, and writing ability. On the basis of this analysis, the three groups were assumed to be of comparable levels of age, intelligence, and writing ability. It was further assumed that, since the groups were originally matched on the basis of continuous progress placement, they were at an equivalent achievement level.

Grand means and standard deviations of all the tests administered are presented in Table III. The correlations between these tests are shown in Table IV. Levels of significance given were calculated using the two-tailed t-test. All correlations



TABLE III

GRAND MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF TESTS USED

Test	\overline{X}	SD
MTCTW Creative Writing Subtest (CW)	16.55	3.67
STEP Writing (Raw Score)	40.76	8.68
STEP Writing (Converted Score)	268.50	12.61
Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Tests (IQ)	111.86	10.48
Lorge-Thorndike (Verbal IQ)	110.04	18.44
Lorge-Thorndike (Non-verbal IQ)	109.99	17.46



TABLE IV

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN TESTS USED

	CW	Verbal IQ	Non-Verbal IQ	Step
IQ	. 33	.61**	.55**	.58**
CW		.19**	.08	.34**
VERBAL IQ			.77**	.31**
NON-VERBAL IQ				.25**

^{**.01} level of significance, $r \ge .18$.



in Table IV are significant at the .01 level of significance except for the correlation between the MTCTW creative writing scores and the Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Test non-verbal scores which is nonsignificant.

The remainder of the chapter presents the null hypotheses tested followed by the results of the appropriate statistical tests used, the F-ratio value and probability level.

II. ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Null Hypothesis 1

On the $\underline{\text{MTCTW}}$ creative writing subtest, there are no significant differences among group mean scores obtained by students writing under differing time limits.

Table V presents the group means and the resulting F-ratio from a comparison of these group means using a one-way analysis of variance. Since the observed F-ratio (4.43) for comparisons among group mean creative writing scores exceeded the critical value (3.04), Null Hypothesis 1 was rejected. Since each group differed only in the amount of creative writing time allowed, it was assumed that significant differences among mean scores was attributable to the time factor. Table V shows that Group C, the group which was given forty-five minutes writing time, had the highest group mean score.

To determine whether the influence of the <u>Lorge-Thorndike</u>

Intelligence Test scores or the <u>STEP Writing</u> scores significantly



GROUP MEAN SCORES AND F-RATIO FROM ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE ON CREATIVE WRITING (CW)

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Total Sample	F Ratio
TIME (in minutes)	15	30	45		
N	67	69	71	207	
\overline{x}^{CM}	15.6	16.7	17.4	16.6	4.43*
SD _{CW}	3.8	3.7	3.2	3.7	

 $F_{.05}(2,204) \ge 3.04.$



affect the prediction of creative writing scores from group membership, the effects of these variables were controlled. As shown in Table VI, all appropriate F-ratios exceeded the critical value (3.04) necessary for the .05 level of significance. It was therefore assumed that the amount of writing time allowed was an important factor in creative writing performance.

Null Hypothesis 2

- a) On the <u>Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Test</u>, there are no significant differences among group mean scores.
- b) On the <u>STEP Writing Test</u>, there are no significant differences among group mean scores.

Table II has presented the group mean scores and the resulting F-ratios from a comparison of the group scores using a one-way analysis of variance. Since neither of the observed F-ratios (1.00, 1.69) for comparisons among group mean intelligence test scores or among group mean STEP Writing scores exceeded the critical value (3.04), Null Hypothesis 2 (a and b) was accepted. Each group may therefore be assumed to be composed of students of equivalent intelligence and equivalent writing abilities as here defined.

Null Hypothesis 3

There are no significant differences among the treatment groups with regards to the continuous progress category to which each pupil belongs.

F-ratios were calculated to test for significant differences



TABLE VI
PREDICTORS OF CREATIVE WRITING SUCCESS

Predictor of Creative Writing Score	Controls	Degrees of Freedom	F Ratio
Group Membership	tion (2,204	4.43*
Group Membership	IQ	2,203	3.68*
Group Membership	STEP	2,203	3.39*
Group Membership	STEP, IQ	2,202	3.30*
IQ	ess	1,205	25.54**
STEP Writing	-	1,205	26.74**

 $F_{.05}(2,204) \ge 3.04.$

^{**} $F_{.01}(1,205) \ge 6.76.$



among the three time-defined creative writing groups with regards to continuous progress placement (Table VII). The F-ratios calculated by using creative writing group membership as a predictor of each continuous progress category allowed acceptance of Null Hypothesis 3. It was therefore supposed that the groups were composed of pupils of comparable achievement level. Since the pupils were randomly assigned from each of the continuous placement categories to each of the time-defined groups, this result was expected. Significant differences would indicate a poor random construction of the three treatment groups.

Null Hypothesis 4

- a) Intelligence is not a significant predictor of creative writing ability.
- b) Writing ability is not a significant predictor of creative writing ability.

F-ratios were calculated to test Null Hypothesis 4. Since both of the F-ratios observed (25.54, 26.74) exceeded the critical level (6.76) necessary for the .01 level of significance, Null Hypothesis (a and b) was rejected. This finding was assumed to indicate that both intelligence and writing ability were highly significant predictors of creative writing ability in the present study (Table VI).

Null Hypothesis 5

On the $\underline{\text{MTCTW}}$ creative writing subtest, there are no significant differences among the mean scores for males and females.



TABLE VII

GROUP MEMBERSHIP AS A PREDICTOR OF CONTINUOUS PROGRESS PLACEMENT (CPP)

Predictor	Predicted CPP Level	F-Ratio
Group Membership	Accelerated	.07
Group Membership	High Average	.02
Group Membership	Low Average	.02
Group Membership	Deccelerated	.10

 $F_{.05}(2,204) \ge 3.04$



The F-ratio calculated to test this hypothesis (14.66) exceeded the critical level (6.76) necessary for the .01 level of significance so this hypothesis was rejected. Comparisons are shown in Table VIII.

The large differences between the writing and creative writing ability of males and females indicated that analyses should be carried out on each sex as a separate group. The first four null hypotheses were considered for males and females separately. Table VIII presents the means and standard deviations for the test scores of both males and females. Correlations between the test scores are presented in Table IX.

All correlations for the males in Table IX with the exception of one at the .05 level are significant at the .01 level.

Two-tailed t-tests were used to determine the significance level.

For the females, none of the correlations between the creative writing scores and other test scores are significant. The remaining correlations are significant at the .01 level except for the correlation between non-verbal I.Q. and STEP Writing which is significant at the .05 level.

III. SEX DIFFERENCES IN PERFORMANCE ON THE MINNESOTA TESTS OF CREATIVE THINKING AND WRITING

Table X presents the different group mean scores for males and females under differing time limits. The observed F-ratio



TABLE VIII

MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS OF THE TEST SCORES ACCORDING TO SEX

	FEMALE (N=97)	FEMALES (N=97)	MA =N)	MALES (N=110)	댠
	, ×	SD	į I×	SD	Ratio
MTCTW (Creative Writing)	17.56	3.58	15.66	3.49	14.66**
STEP Writing (Raw Score)	43.14	8.14	38.66	8.60	14.56**
Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence (Total Score)	111.48	10.15	112.19	10.75	.23
Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence (Verbal Score)	109.26	20.25	110.74	16.65	.33
Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence (Non-verbal Score)	108.85	19.27	111.00	15.61	.78
**F.01(1,205) ≥ 6.76		I I II II	Mean Score Standard Deviation Number	viation	



TABLE IX

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN TESTS USED FOR MALES AND FEMALES

		FEMALES	LES (N=97)			MALES (N=110)	(=110)	
Test	Creative Writing	Verbal IQ	Non- Verbal IQ	STEP	Creative Writing	Verbal IQ	Non- Verbal IQ	STEP
Total IQ	.29**	.58**	.52**	**09*	.41**	.64**	.58**	.63**
Creative Writing	5 0	.12	.02	.13		.30**	.20*	**77.
Verbal IQ			* * 8 8 .	.31**			.74**	.38**
Non-Verbal IQ				.24*				.33**

* .01 level of significance for females (r \geq .26),

^{**.01} level of significance for males $(r \ge .25)$



TABLE X

GROUP MEAN SCORES AND F-RATIOS FROM ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE ON CREATIVE WRITING FOR MALES AND FEMALES

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Total	F-Ratio
Males:					
Time in Minutes	15	30	45		
Number	34	41	35	110	
Creative Writing (Mean Score)	14.29	15.41	17.29	15.66	7.19**
Standard Deviation	3.52	3.41	2.82	3.49	
Females:					
Time in Minutes	15	30	45		
Number	33	28	36	76	
Creative Writing (Mean Score)	16.85	18.54	17.44	17.56	1.71
Standard Deviation	3.60	3.39	3.55	3.58	

 ** F.01(2,107) > 4.81



for the females in the test for significant differences among the creative writing treatment groups is 1.71. This ratio does not exceed the critical ratio (3.09) for significance at the .05 level, as far as the females are concerned; but the F-ratio reported for the males in the test for significant differences among the creative writing treatment groups is 7.19. This ratio does exceed the critical ratio (4.81) for significance at the .01 level.

For the males, then, there were significant differences among the group mean scores for the creative writing test, but no significant differences existed for the females. Even when controls for intelligence and for writing ability were implemented, the group mean scores for the creative writing test showed no significant differences for the females but did differ significantly for the males. The male creative writing scores increased significantly with an increase in time but the female creative writing scores did not.

Table XI presents the group mean scores for males and for females according to the creative writing group to which they were assigned. Both F-ratios for the females which compared these groups using a one-way analysis of variance were less than the critical value (3.09) necessary for the .05 level of significance. The observed F-ratio for comparisons among group mean intelligence test scores for the females was .30, and for comparisons on the STEP Writing test was .88. For the males, the

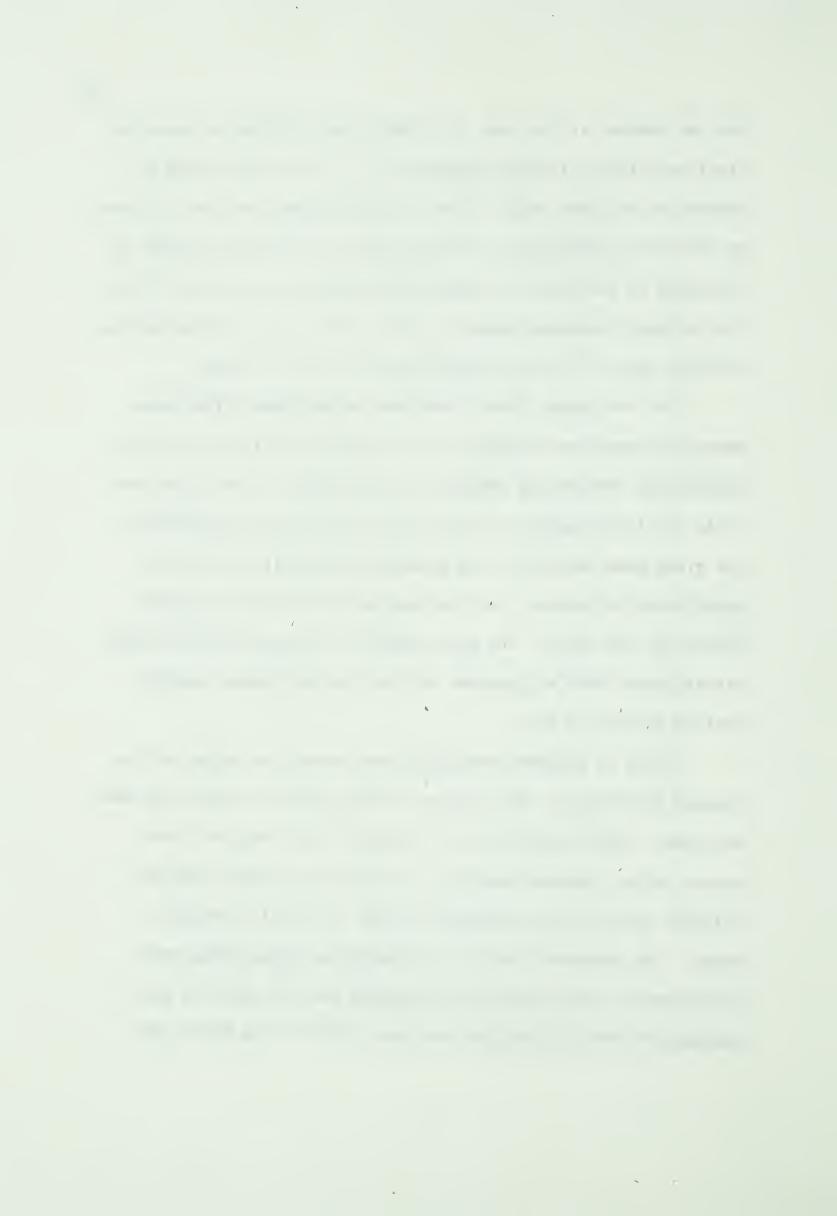


TABLE XI

MEAN SCORES, STANDARD DEVIATIONS AND F-RATIOS FROM ANALYSES OF VARIANCE ON LORGE-THORNDIKE INTELLIGENCE AND ON STEP WRITING TESTS FOR THE THREE TREATMENT GROUPS ACCORDING TO SEX

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Total	F-Ratio
Males:					
Mean IQ Score	108.79	113.05	114.49	112.19	2.68
Standard Deviation (IQ)	11.83	9.12	10.60	10.75	
Mean STEP Writing Score	260.76	266.83	268.09	265.35	3.99*
Standard Deviation (STEP)	14.56	10.74	90.6	12.01	
Females:					
Mean IQ Score	112.00	112.21	110.44	111.48	.30
Standard Deviation (IQ)	10.61	5.99	1.072	10.15	
Mean STEP Writing Score	271.91	274.25	270.53	272.07	.87
Standard Deviation (STEP)	9.33	9.77	15.76	12.31	

 * F_{.05}(2,107) \geq 3.09



observed F-ratio for comparison among group mean intelligence scores was 2.68 which does not exceed the critical ratio needed for the .05 level of significance. But for the males, the observed F-ratio for comparisons among group mean STEP Writing Test scores does exceed the critical level (3.09) necessary for significance at the .05 level.

Among the three treatment groups, no significant differences with respect to intelligence or writing ability arose for the females; but for the males, although there is no significant difference among the three treatment groups with regard to intelligence, there was a significant difference at the .05 level with respect to writing ability.

F-ratios were calculated to test for significant differences among the groups for each of the four continuous placement categories. None of the F-ratios calculated for the accelerated category, the high average category, the low average category, and the deccelerated category reached the critical level (3.09) necessary for the .05 level of significance (Table XII).

No significant differences in achievement appeared amongst the treatment groups for either the males or the females. Since this was the basis of the selection of the groups, it was assumed that the placement was random.

F-ratios were calculated using both intelligence and writing ability as predictors of creative writing ability for the males and



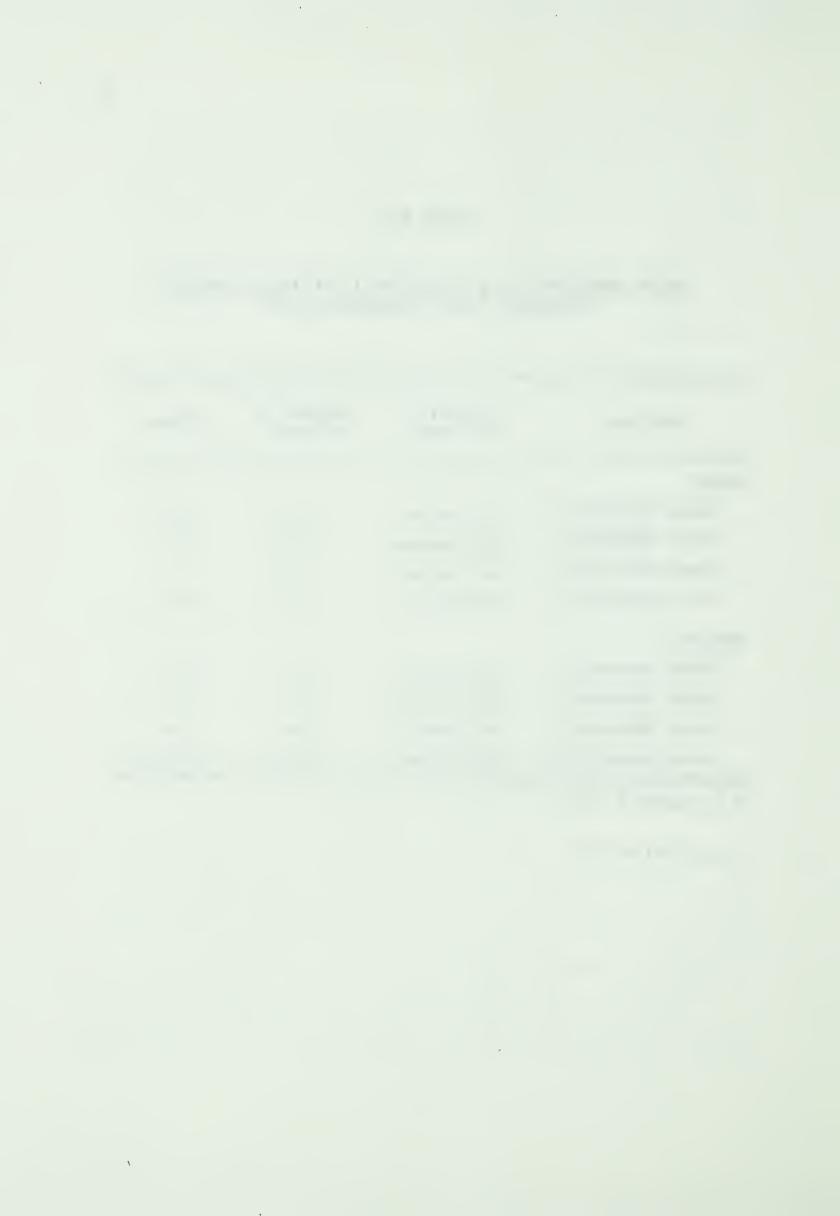
TABLE XII

GROUP MEMBERSHIP AS A PREDICTOR OF CONTINUOUS PROGRESS PLACEMENT (CPP) ACCORDING TO SEX

Predictor	Predicted CPP Level	Degrees of Freedom	F-Ratio
Males:			
Group Membership	Accelerated	2,107	.69
Group Membership	High Average	2,107	.02
Group Membership	Low Average	2,107	. 24
Group Membership	Deccelerated	2,107	1.26
Females:			
Group Membership	Accelerated	2,94	1.23
Group Membership	High Average	2,94	.25
Group Membership	Low Average	2,94	.34
Group Membership	Deccelerated	2,94	1.68

 $F_{.05}(2,107) \ge 3.09$

 $F_{.05}(2,94) \ge 3.09$



and the females. In all cases the F-ratios calculated exceeded the critical levels necessary for the .01 levels of significance. (See Table XIII.) This indicated that intelligence and writing ability were significant predictors of creative writing ability for both males and females.

IV. TWO-WAY ANALYSIS OF COVARIANCE

The sex difference revealed in the foregoing analyses warranted further examination. Since this sex difference in creative writing ability may have been due to the female superiority in writing ability (as revealed by the STEP Writing scores for each group), the groups were subjected to a two-way analysis of covariance using the STEP Writing scores as the covariate (as per Winer, 1962, p. 60). The purpose of this analysis was to adjust for the differences in writing ability between the males and females before the creative writing scores of the treatment groups were compared.

This analysis, as shown in Table XIV, showed the same statistically significant sex difference which favored the females for both creative writing ability and for (STEP) writing ability that exceeded the .01 level. Most important, though, was that there was a significant difference among the treatment groups' mean creative writing scores after adjustment for writing ability differences. The F ratio for this comparison (7.68) exceeded the



TABLE XIII

PREDICTORS OF CREATIVE WRITING SUCCESS
FOR MALES AND FEMALES

	Predictor	Degrees of Freedom	F-Ratio
Males:			
	IQ	1,108	21.95**
	STEP Writing	1,108	30.59**
Females:			
	IQ	1,95	8.58**
	STEP Writing	1,95	8.78**

^{**} $F_{.01}(1,108) \ge 6.90$

 $^{^{**}}F_{.01}(1,95) \ge 6.92$

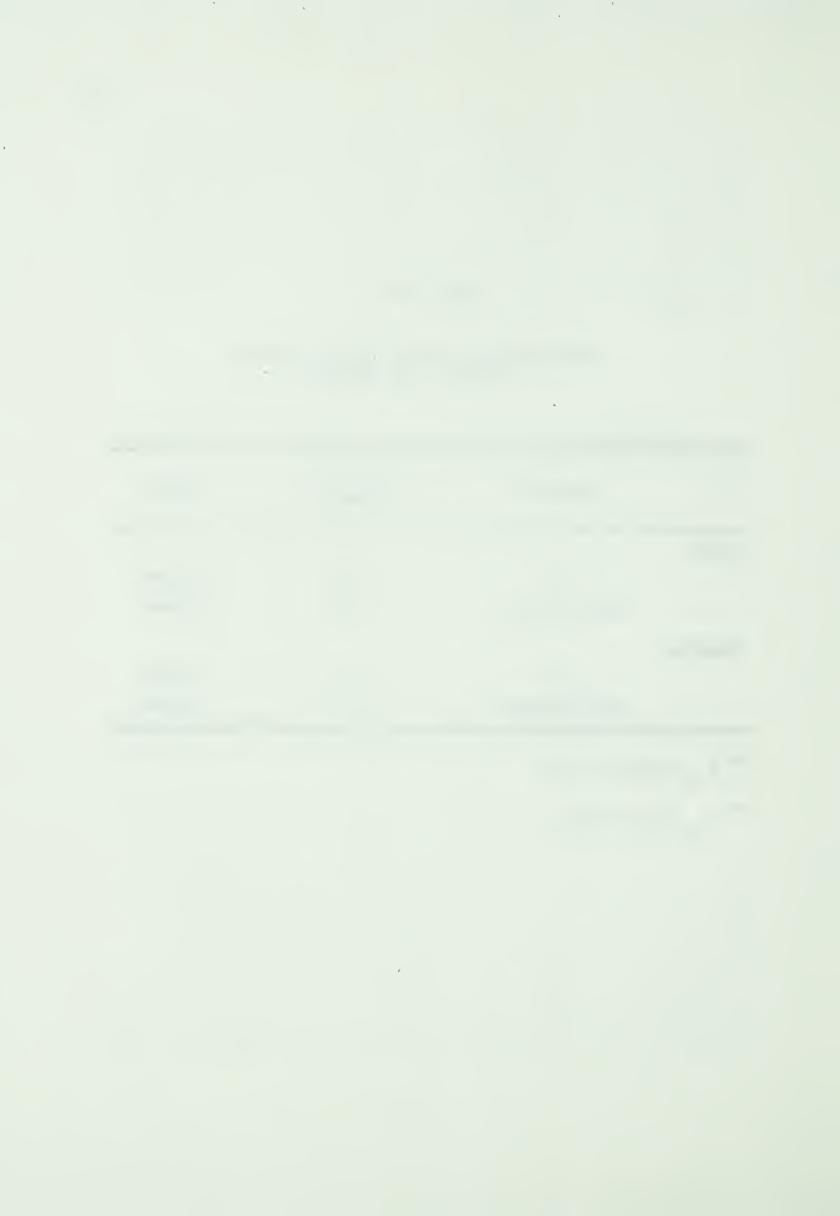


TABLE XIV

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS OF COVARIANCE: MTCTW CREATIVE WRITING SCORES ADJUSTED FOR THE EFFECTS OF STEP WRITING TEST SCORES

Source	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F-Ratio
Group	83.48	2	41.74	3.75*
Sex	85.34	٦	85.34	7.68*
Interaction	48.02	2	24.01	2.16
Within	1790.90	161	11.12	

 $^{^*}$ F.05(2,161) \geq 3.06

 $^{^*}$ F_{.05}(1,161) \geq 3.90



.05 level of significance.

Time proved to be a significant predictor of creative writing ability even after adjustment for group differences in (STEP) writing ability.

V. NEWMAN-KEULS COMPARISON BETWEEN ORDERED MEANS

In order to make comparisons between each of the three treatment groups, the Newman-Keuls procedure as described in Winer (1962, p. 102) was used. Comparisons between each of the three treatment groups and between males and females were made for each of the variables examined in this study.

No significant differences were found when Group A means were compared to Group B means and when Group B means were compared to Group C means; but a significant difference at the .01 level did arise between Group A means and Group C means for creative writing. Table XV shows this finding.

Forty-five minutes of creative writing allowed a student to produce a significantly better product than did fifteen minutes writing time.

Male and female group mean scores when compared revealed no significant differences for any of the other variables except for a significant difference between the males and females at the .01 level on STEP Writing Test scores and on creative writing

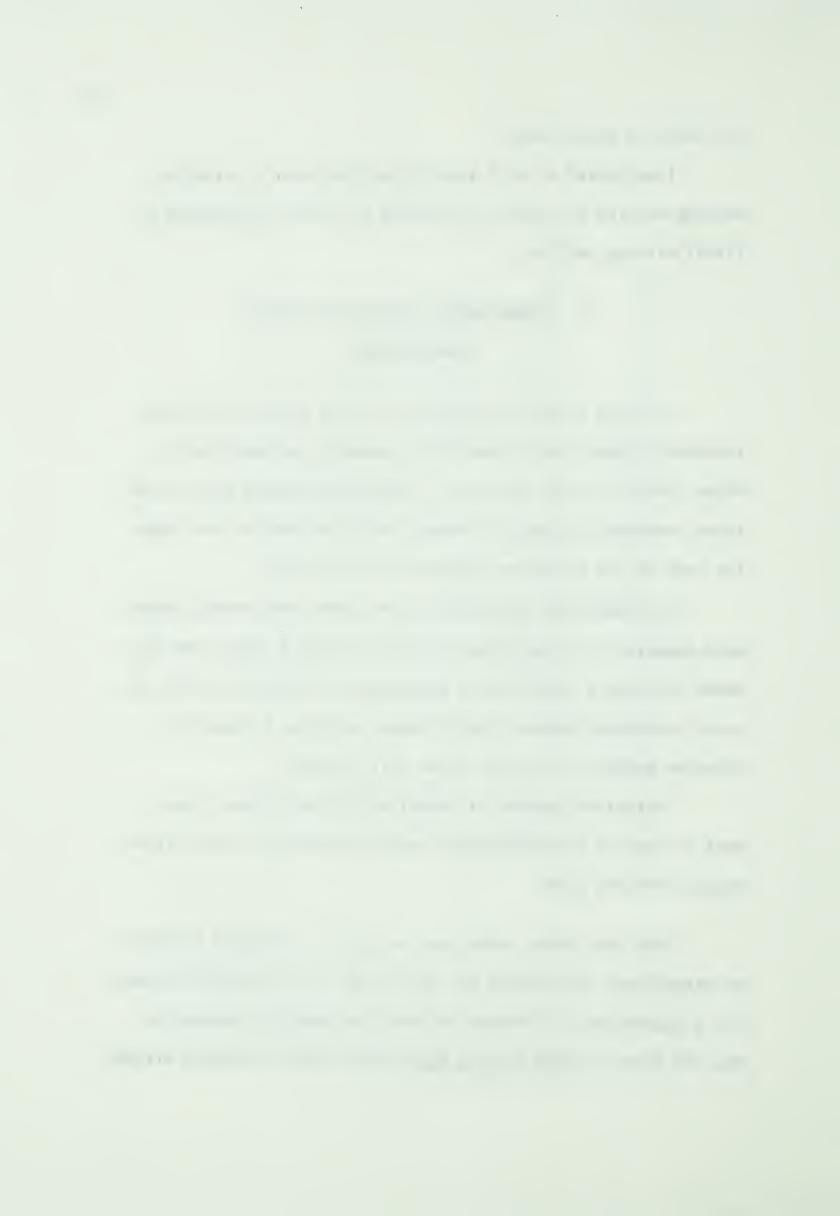
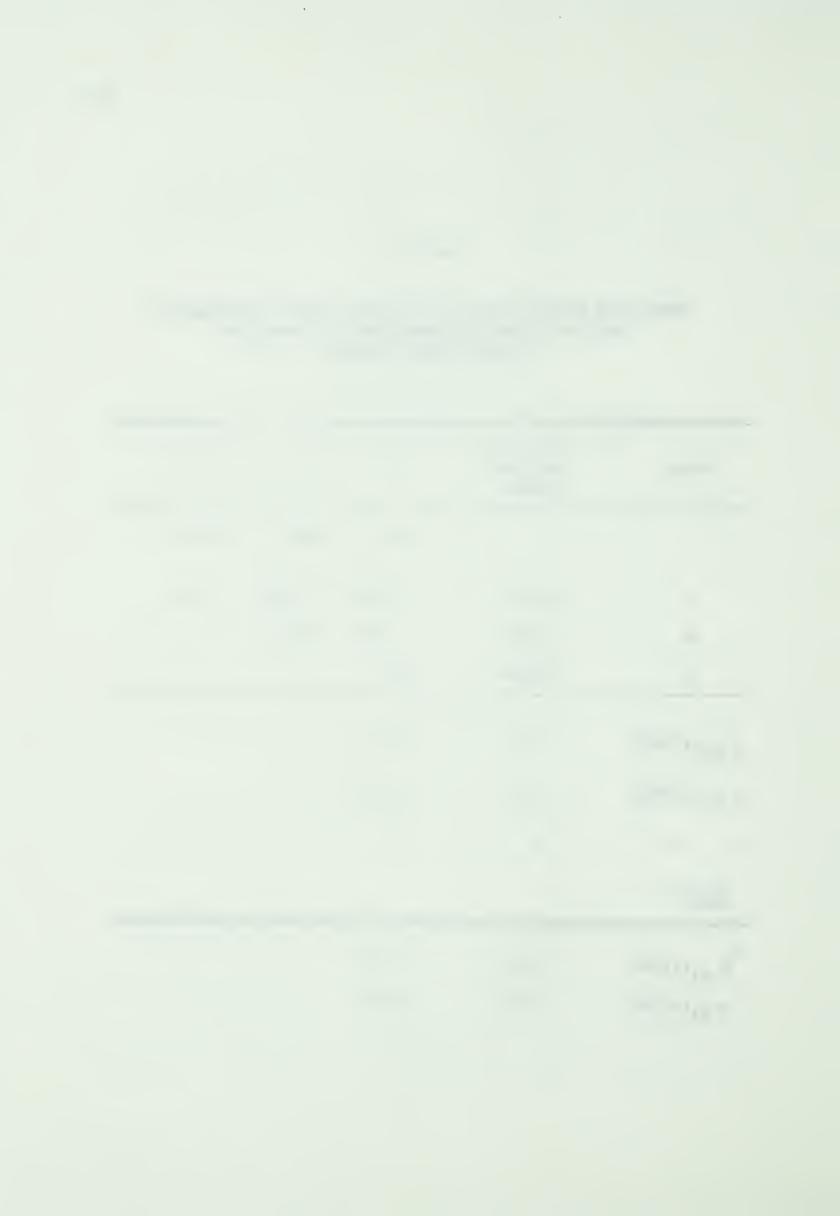


TABLE XV

COMPARISON BETWEEN EACH OF THE GROUP MEANS FOR CREATIVE WRITING USING THE NEWMAN-KEULS COMPARISON BETWEEN ORDERED MEANS

			-		
Group	Creative Writing Means	С	В	A	
		17.4	16.7	15.6	
A	15.55	1.814*	1.129	0.0	
В	16.68	.685	0.0		
С	17.36	0.0			
q _{.95} (4,204)	3.31	2.77			
q _{.99} (r,204)	4.12	3.64			
r =	3	2			
√MS/N					
*q.95(r,204)	1.44	1.20			
q _{.99} (r,204)	1.79	1.58			



test scores.

This chapter has presented the findings of the statistical analyses. Each question posed in Chapter I was presented in the null hypothesis form which was tested for acceptance or rejection. The males and the females, each as a separate group, were specifically examined after a significant sex difference was noted. A summary of the findings of these analyses is found in Chapter V.



CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

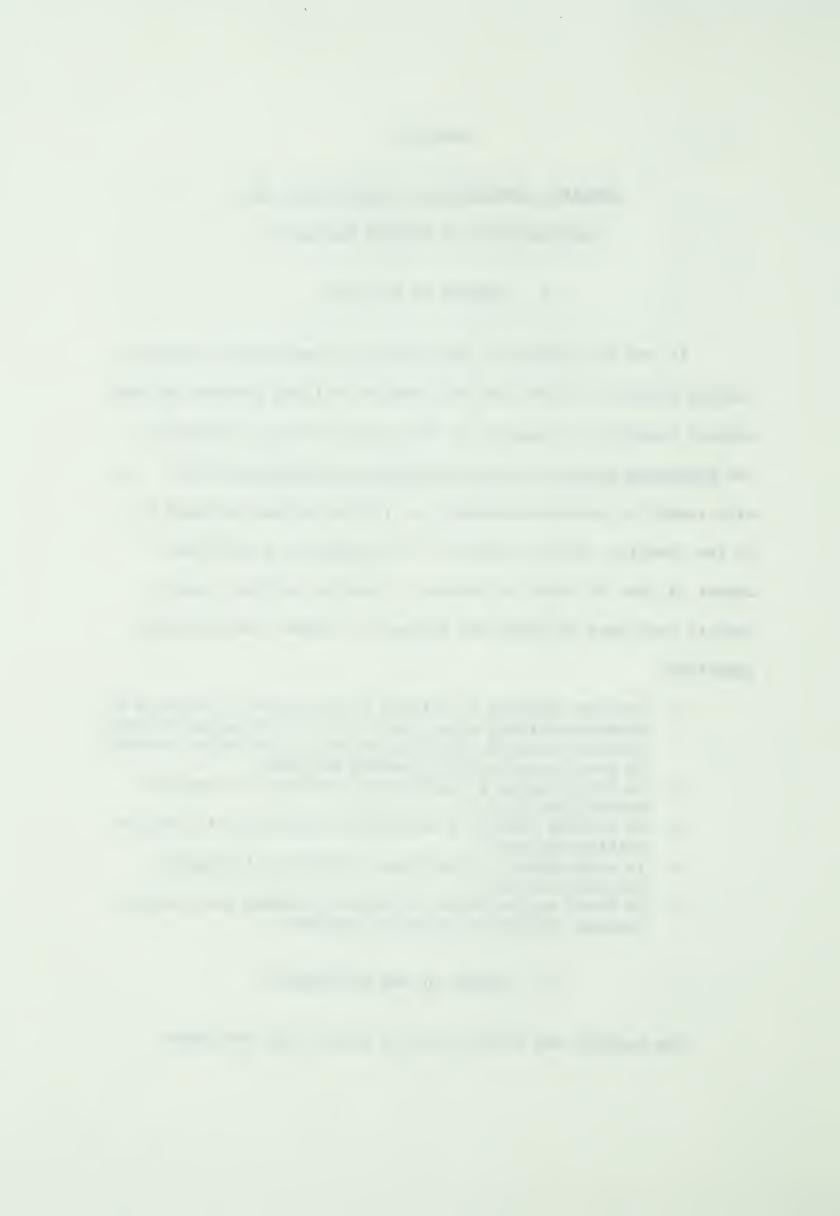
I. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

It was the purpose of this study to examine the effects of varying amounts of time upon the creative writing products of elementary children as measured by the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing (MTCTW). It also sought to determine whether the fifteen minutes allowed for by the creative writing subtest of the MTCTW was a sufficient amount of time in which to produce a creative writing product. Certain data were obtained and analysed to answer the following questions:

- 1. Does an increase in writing time produce an increase in creative writing score, and if so, which amount of time (fifteen minutes, thirty minutes, or forty-five minutes) is most conducive for creative writing?
- 2. Is intelligence a significant predictor of creative writing ability?
- 3. Is writing ability a significant predictor of creative writing ability?
- 4. Is achievement a significant predictor of creative writing ability?
- 5. Is there a significant difference between the creative writing ability of males and females?

II. DESIGN OF THE EXPERIMENT

Two hundred and seven grade six pupils from two large



Edmonton Public elementary schools participated in this study.

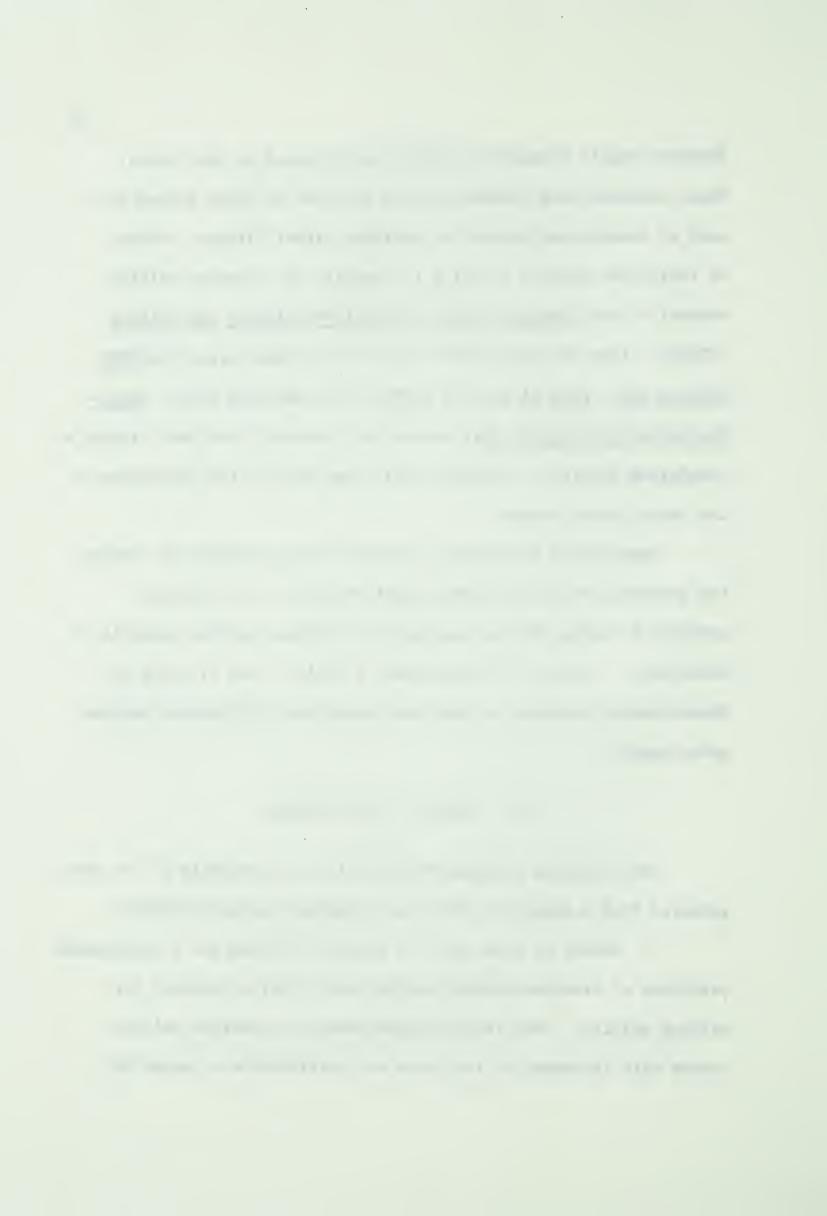
These students were randomly placed into one of three groups and each of these three groups was assigned either fifteen, thirty, or forty-five minutes in which to complete the creative writing subtest of the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing (MTCTW). Late in June, 1967, all of the students wrote the STEP Writing Test, Form 4A and the MTCTW in the assigned time. Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Test scores were obtained from each student's cumulative records. A complete check was made of the randomness of the three groups chosen.

Appropriate statistical analyses were undertaken to examine the questions which the study sought to answer. The data was analysed by using one-way analysis of variance, two-way analysis of covariance, all with the associated F-ratios, and by using the Newman-Keuls procedure to test for significant differences between group means.

III. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The following findings resulted from the analysis of the data gathered from a sample of 207 urban elementary school children:

1. Amount of time spent in creative writing was a significant predictor of creative writing ability even after adjustment for writing ability. That is, the improvements in creative writing scores with increases in time were not attributable to group dif-



ferences in writing ability.

- 2. Although the initial analysis indicated that forty-five minutes of writing time allowed for a higher quality of the creative writing product than did fifteen minutes, separate analyses of the data of the males and females showed that it was the males who benefited from increases in time.
- 3. Females scored significantly higher than males on both creative writing and on writing ability in the analyses of all writing measurements regardless of group membership.
- 4. Intelligence was a significant predictor of creative writing ability. That is, there was a significant correlation between intelligence and creative writing ability.

IV. LIMITATIONS

The interpretations made for this study were subject to the following limitations:

- 1. This study did not attempt to determine the possible effect of socio-economic differences among the subjects.
- 2. The sample studied was restricted to grade six students in an urban public school system.
- 3. No attempts were made to account for experiential differences among the children although the testing instrument for creative writing ability was designed to minimize such an effect.
 - 4. This study does not determine if each pupils' rank



order (in comparison with the other subjects creative writing scores) remains constant with changes in time.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Statistical significance in this study is reported as being at the .05 level. That is, the difference among mean scores was considered to be statistically significant only if the probability of observing such a difference as a result of sampling error was .05 or less.

To determine if the three groups formed for this study were equivalent in verbal intelligence, non-verbal intelligence, total intelligence, writing ability and age, the appropriate test scores were compared to see if any statistically significant differences existed. None were found, so the three groups were considered equivalent with respect to intelligence, writing ability, age, and due to the groups' formation on the basis of school achievement level, achievement.

- 1. Males improve their creative writing scores with increases in time. They should be allowed at least forty-five minutes to produce a creative writing sample. Females appear to be able to produce a satisfactory product within fifteen minutes.
- 2. Females scored significantly higher than the males on both creative writing and on writing ability so it seems that the assumption that no significant sex differences exist in language



ability at the grade six level should be reconsidered.

3. The significant correlation between intelligence and creative writing ability reported indicates that creativity in writing is related to intelligence. The same relationship holds between writing ability and creative writing. This coincides with the findings of other researchers such as Wallen and Stevenson, (1960) and Yamamoto (1963) who also reported significant and positive correlations between both intelligence and language achievement and creative writing ability.

VI. DISCUSSION

This study investigated the effects of time on the creative writing product. There was an attempt to control for other factors which may have influenced the creative writing production. Varied statistical analyses did indicate, at the .05 level of significance, that a fifteen minute period is not a sufficient length of time for grade six pupils to produce their best creative writing sample.

As was theorized in Chapter I, allowing the child more time to write is conducive to the creative writing situation because the child has more time to allow each of the four phases of the creative process—preparation, incubation, illumination, and verification—to develop. Each phase requires an expenditure of time. Forcing the child to accept our preconceived conditions can only



restrict his creative impulses. For example, his ideas may or may not have sufficient time in which to incubate in fifteen minutes. This study has indicated that we must allow elementary children much more time than previously given for their creative potential to develop.

Of course, the evaluation of creative writing ability could be considered a relative condition. That is, one may only desire to discover who is highly creative and who is not. Perhaps every pupil could score higher with more time without changing his rank order when compared to his classmates. But this study has indicated that time affects the pupils differentially in the production of a creative writing sample. For example, males were found to improve the quality of their creative writing with increments in time more than did the females. Does this finding indicate that the present standards (i.e., fifteen minutes writing time) are more conducive to a superior female production? The idea that the elementary school environment is more conducive to female achievement than to male achievement is not a new thesis.

It is theorized that creativity does require sufficient amounts of time for development. Although this study has shown that forty-five minutes writing time is more efficacious than fifteen minutes writing time, it has not shown if hours or even days longer would produce higher creative writing scores. This study has also left other questions unanswered. For example, it

is unclear as to whether the time requirements of children differ from those of adults. That is, do the child's creative processes take lesser amounts of time to develop than similar adult processes?

One of the major factors contributing to the decision to use grade six pupils in this study was the indication from the research of McKie (36), and from previous research by the writer, that by grade six no sex difference in creative writing ability existed. The previous study done by the writer in December 1966 revealed no significant differences between the creative writing scores of males and females. An extremely low F-ratio (.008) when comparing mean creative writing scores of males and females was reported at that time. Although the earlier study was done at the grade five level, it did use the Minnesota Tests of Creative Thinking and Writing with a testing time of fifteen minutes. The report of McKie (1963), using a different measure of creative writing ability, reported no significant sex differences in creative writing ability at the grade six level.

This study casts doubt upon those writers who maintain that intelligence is not a good predictor of creativity. If we are to accept the creative writing measure herein as an indication of creativity, it can be stated that this study did find intelligence to be a highly significant predictor of creativity. The correlation between intelligence and creativity, however, did

decrease with increased amounts of creative writing time.

As a result of this investigation, the writer feels that teachers and administrators should reconsider giving merely fifteen or twenty minutes writing time to grade six pupils. It is hoped that children will be allowed more time in which to express their creative potential.

VII. IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The major implication for further research in this study comes from the finding that the male creative writing score improves more than the female score with increases in time. It would be desirable to consider this finding in the light of the studies which examine the underachievement of the elementary male student in the language arts areas of school. Could this possibly be one of the factors (i.e., restriction of time) which affects male performance?

Another area of future research could also deal with the effects of time limits upon the creative writing product. It is possible that time limits themselves are the restricting elements, not whether the child produces within a certain length of time. The writer did observe that the children who were given fifteen minutes in which to produce a creative writing sample proceeded to work immediately upon receipt of the instruction whereas the children with longer amounts of time appeared to be more



methodical and deliberate. While some of the students in the thirty and forty-five minute groups left before the time was up, none of the children in the fifteen minute group left early. This indicates that all of the children in the fifteen minute group must have felt some time pressures.

A situation could easily be contrived which varied the period allowed for the children to think about their stories before they wrote them. For example, the writing instructions could be given before recess, before the lunch break, before going home for the day, and before going home for the weekend. This would allow varying amounts of time for the incubation of ideas before the actual writing.

Concluding Statement. This study, by comparing the creative writing product of grade six pupils under differing time limits, has suggested that male elementary pupils should be allowed more time in which to produce a creative writing sample. It is hoped that the differential time effect upon males and females can be explored further with different samples. By allowing pupils to write for longer periods of time, teachers may obtain better creative writing samples from their male students. Future studies can determine whether certain conditions exist under which the creative writing of females may



improve with increases of writing time, too.

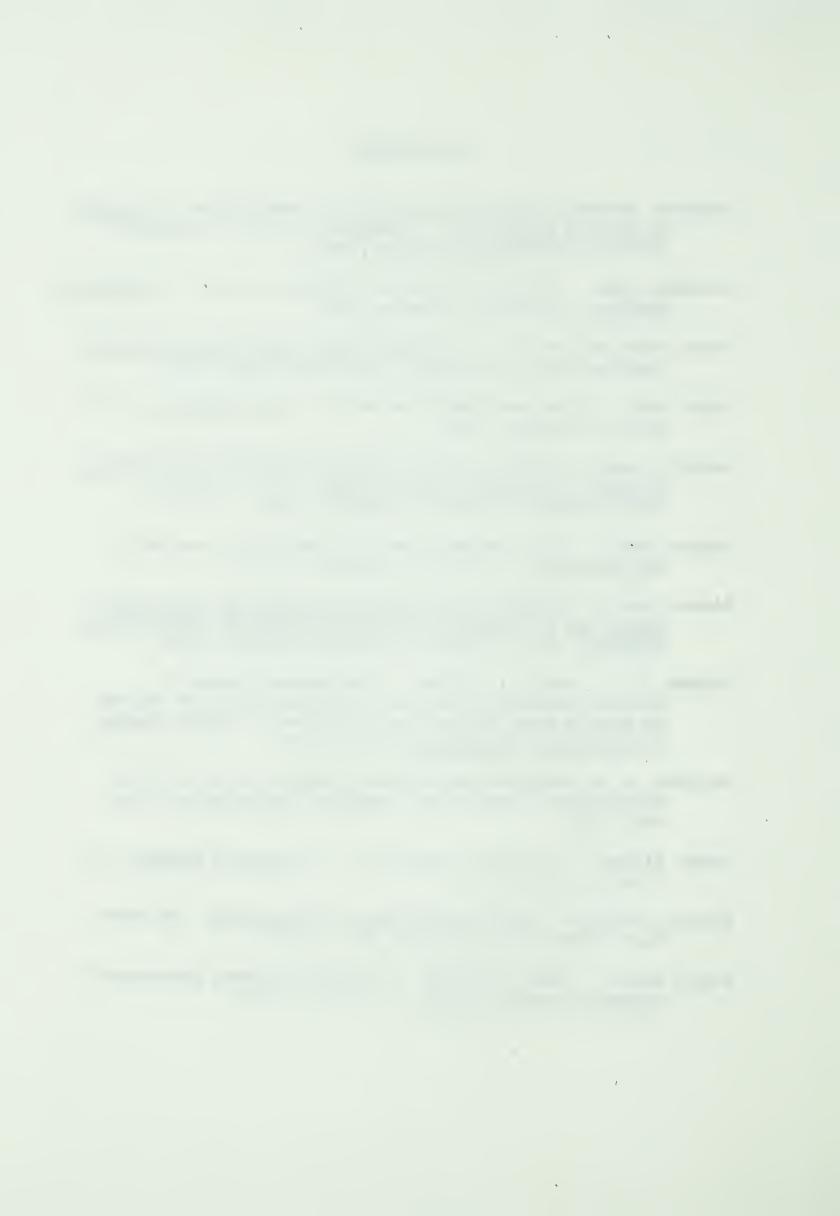






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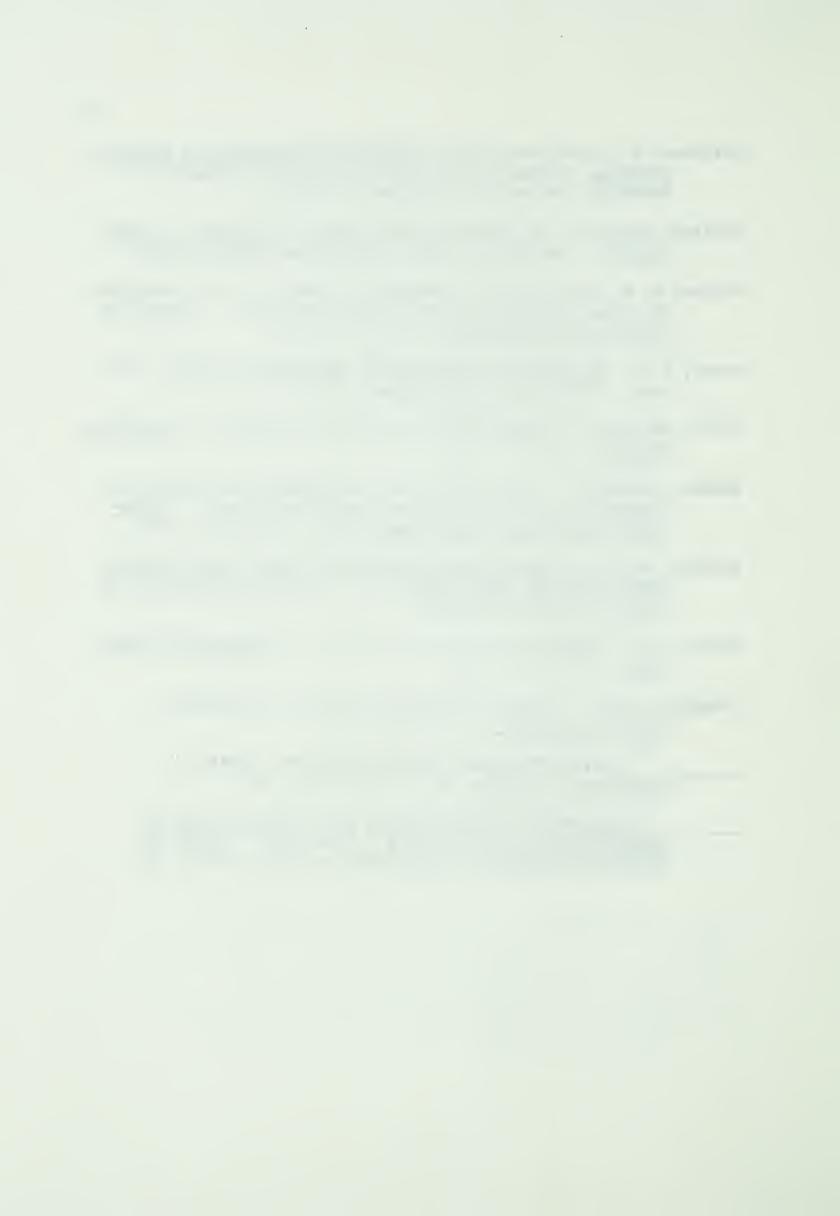


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SAMPLES OF THE MINNESOTA TESTS OF CREATIVE THINKING
AND WRITING, CREATIVE WRITING SUBTEST

AND

SAMPLE SCORING WORKSHEET



MTCT&W

CW15

For research purposes only.

In the next fifteen minutes, you are to write the most interesting and exciting story you can think of about one of the topics listed below. Try to write legibly but do not worry too much about your writing, spelling and the like. Instead, try to put into your story as many good ideas as you can think of. Choose from any of the following topics:

- 1. The teacher who doesn't talk.
- 2. The hen that crows.
- 3. The dog that won't fight.
- 4. The flying monkey.
- 5. The boy who wants to be a nurse.
- 6. The girl who wants to be an engineer.
- 7. The cat that likes to swim.
- 8. The woman who swears like a sailor.
- 9. The man who wears lipstick.
- 10. The cow that brays like a donkey.



MTCT&W

CW30

For research purposes only.

In the next thirty minutes, you are to write the most interesting and exciting story you can think of about one of the topics listed below. Try to write legibly but do not worry too much about your writing, spelling, and the like. Instead, try to put into your story as many good ideas as you can think of. Choose from any of the following topics:

- 1. The teacher who doesn't talk.
- 2. The hen that crows.
- 3. The dog that won't fight.
- 4. The flying monkey.
- 5. The boy who wants to be a nurse.
- 6. The girl who wants to be an engineer.
- 7. The cat that likes to swim.
- 8. The woman who swears like a sailor.
- 9. The man who wears lipstick.
- 10. The cow that brays like a donkey.



MTCT&W

CW45

For research purposes only.

In the next forty-five minutes, you are to write the most interesting and exciting story you can think of about one of the topics listed below. Try to write legibly but do not worry too much about your writing, spelling, and the like. Instead, try to put into your story as many good ideas as you can think of. Choose from any of the following topics:

- 1. The teacher who doesn't talk.
- 2. The hen that crows.
- 3. The dog that won't fight.
- 4. The flying monkey.
- 5. The boy who wants to be a nurse.
- 6. The girl who wants to be an engineer.
- 7. The cat that likes to swim.
- 8. The woman who swears like a sailor.
- 9. The man who wears lipstick.
- 10. The cow that brays like a donkey.



CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHEET

Name		Sex _		Title	
1-1. Bala 1-2. Arra 1-3. Cons 1-4. Cons	ion		0 1 0 1 0 1	Subtotal	
2-1. Stin 2-2. Asso 2-3. Rele 2-4. Spec	ey		0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1	Subtotal	
3-1. Choi 3-2. Idea 3-3. Orga 3-4. Styl	ce of topic		0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1	Subtotal _	
4-1. Imag 4-2. Fant 4-3. Abst 4-4. Iden	ination	• • •	0 1 0 1 0 1	Subtotal	
5-1. Caus 5-2. Pers 5-3. Mean 5-4. Ego-	cal Insight . al explanation pective ingfulness involvement . rstanding		0 1 0 1 0 1	Subtotal	
6-1. Expr 6-2. Idea 6-3. Emot 6-4. Curi	ession	• • •	0 1 0 1 0 1	Subtotal	
TOTAL SCORE .					



THE TESTING SCHEDULE

Tests to be Administered: $\underline{\text{STEP}}$ $\underline{\text{Writing}}$ and $\underline{\text{MTCTW}}$ (creative writing)

Participating Schools and Teachers:

Braemar	Hazeldean
Miss Lammie Mr. Geake Mrs. Wyman Mr. Eichelt	Miss Simmons Mr. Stauffer Mrs. Hogg Mr. Inscho

	Monday, June 26	Wednesday, June 28
9:00	Group B Creative writing in library	Group C Creative writing in library
10:00	Group A Creative writing in library	Group A Creative writing in library
11:00	Group C Creative writing in library	Group B Creative writing in library
	NO	OON
1:45	STEP Writing Part I in home rooms	STEP Writing Part I in home rooms
3:00	STEP Writing Part II in home rooms	STEP Writing Part II in home rooms



NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMPRISING EACH CREATIVE WRITING GROUP ACCORDING TO SCHOOL

Creative Writing	SO	HOOLS	1
Group	Braemar	Hazeldean	Total
A	33	34	67
В	36	33	69
C	40	31	71
TOTAL	109	98	207



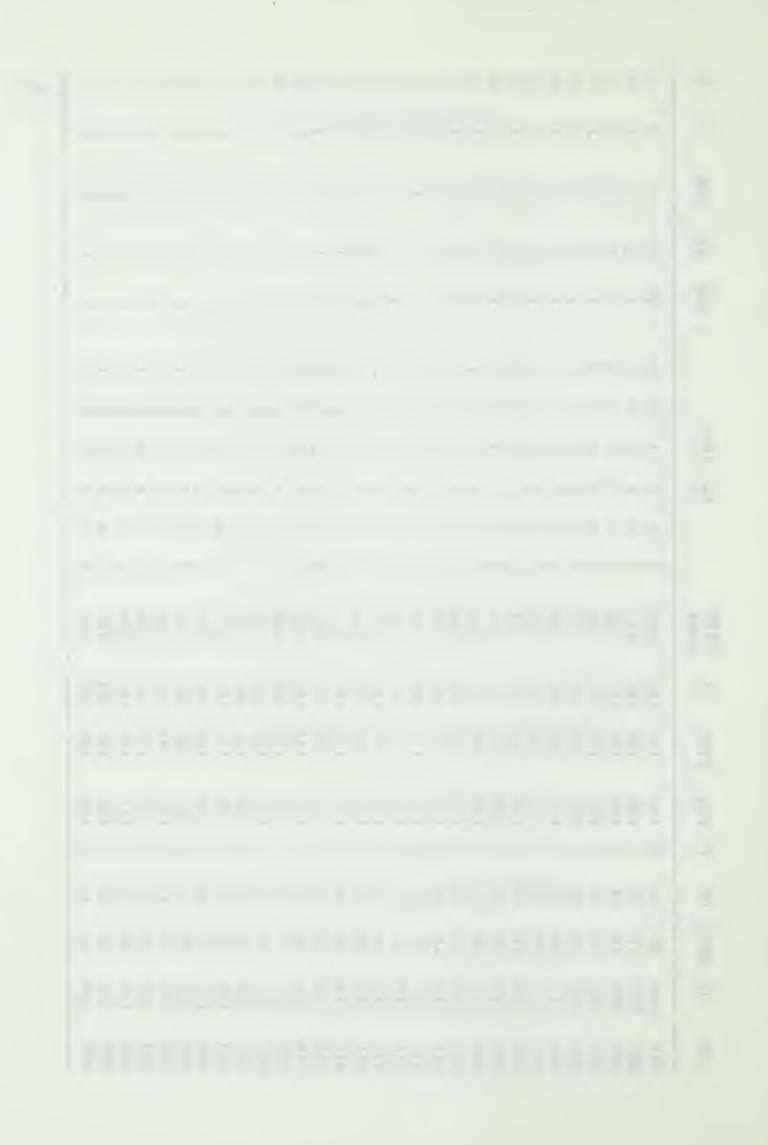
RAW SCORES FOR ALL STUDENTS

On the following pages, the scores obtained by pupils on the various tests are listed. The symbols heading each column are to be interpreted as follows:

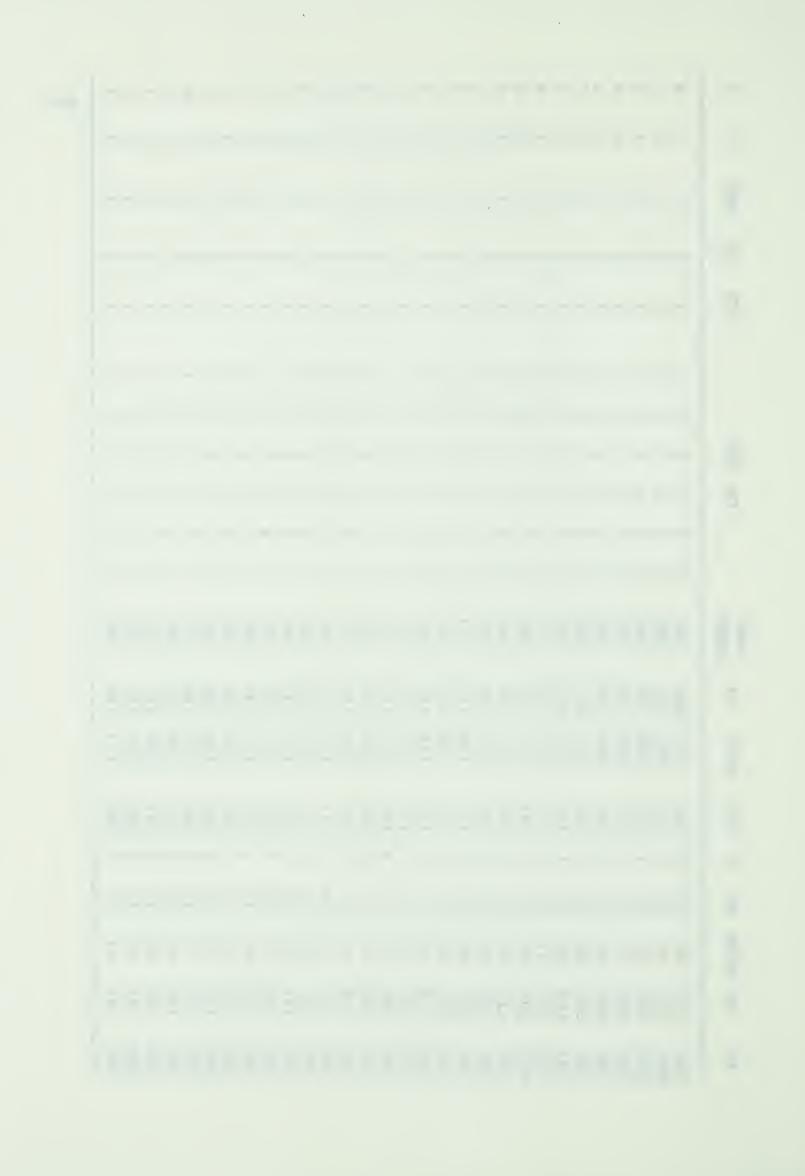
- Column 1: ID identification number
- Column 2: IQ Lorge-Thorndike Intelligence Tests score
- Column 3: STEP STEP Writing test raw score
- Column 4: CW Creative writing total score from the MTCTW
- Column 5: T treatment group A, B or C (given as 1, 2 or 3)
- Column 6: VIQ verbal score from the Lorge-Thorndike Tests
- Column 7: NVIQ non-verbal score from Lorge-Thorndike
- Column 8: CA chronological age in months
- Column 9: STEP CONV STEP Writing Test converted score
- Column 10: CW SUB MTCTW creative writing subtest subscores (see the creative writing score sheet)
- Column 11: SCH school attended (1, Braemar; 2, Hazeldean)
- Column 12: TR classroom teacher
- Column 13: SEX male or female code (1, female; 2, male)
- Column 14: CP continuous progress placement (1, accelerated; 2, high average; 3, low average; 4, deccelerated)
- Column 15: S topic or story chosen (see choice on creative writing test)



လ	3	6	3	2	3	2	4	7	0	2	Н	Н	Н	2	Н	6	Н	7	∞	∞	4	2	9	4	2	5	7	7	4	2
O	3	2	3	2	n	2	n	2	3	n	2	2	n	7	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	n	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3
SEX	Н	П	П	-	\vdash	⊢	· —	Н	Н	\vdash	ᆏ	⊣	-	Н	Н	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	7	7	7	7	7	7	2	2
TR	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	П	П	Н	Н	\vdash	Н	Н	∞	Н	Н	ij	Н	Н	\vdash	Н	Н	\vdash	Н	Н	\vdash	Н	П
SCH	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	П	Н	\vdash	Н	Н	Н	\vdash	Н	Н	\vdash	2	\vdash	\vdash	Н	Н	\vdash	Η	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	П	П
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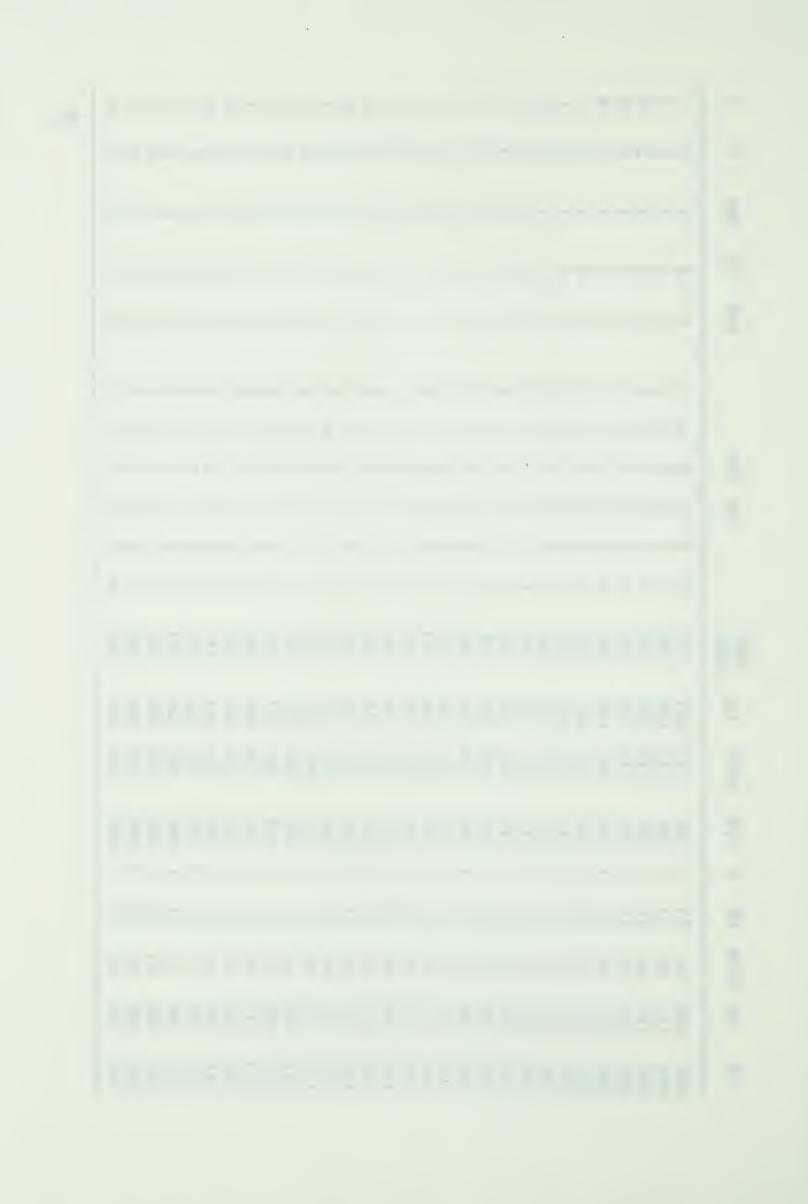
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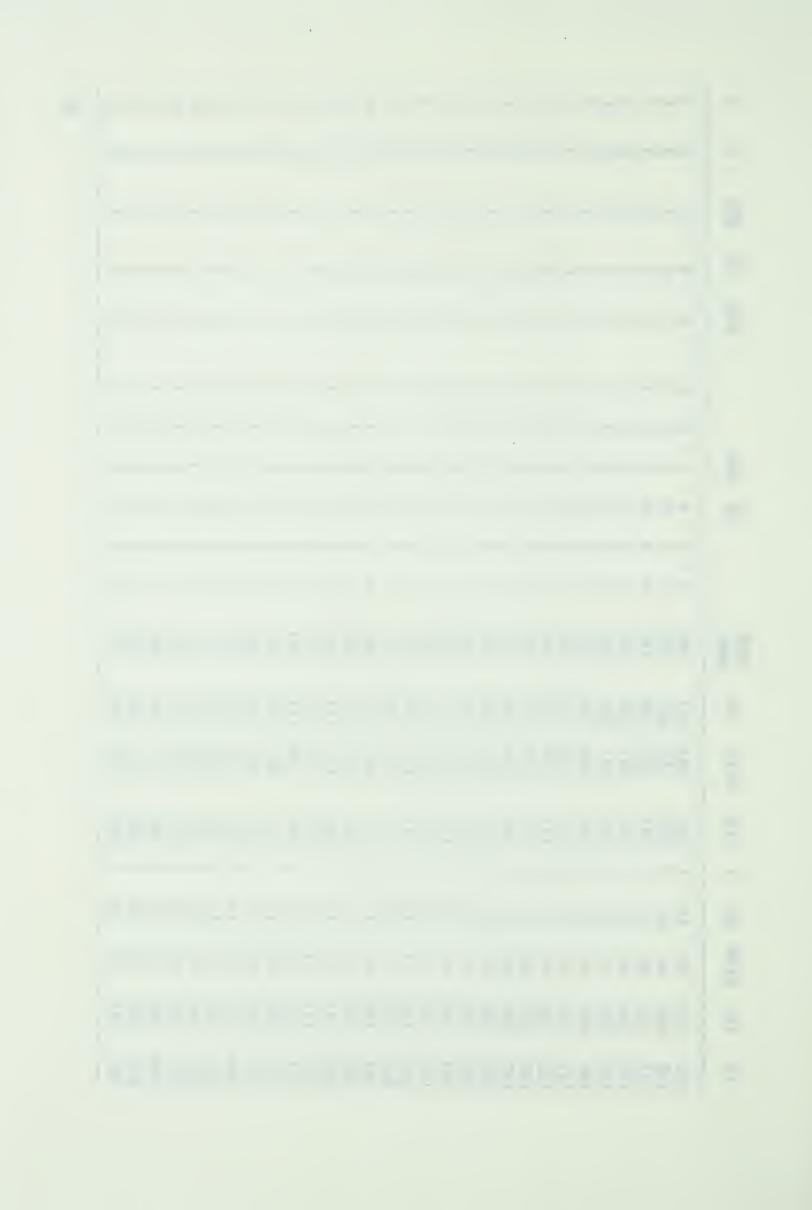
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SEX	2	Н	Н	Н	2	2	П	Н	Н	2	2	Н	2	Н	2	Н	2	П	П	П	П	ř.	П	2	П	2	П	2	7	2
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